

May 22, 2020

Dear Beatitudes Families, Residents and Staff,

This weekend is Memorial Day, a time that we commemorate the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country to protect our freedom. It is usually marked by parades, big family picnics and military fly-overs. This year, Memorial Day will be a little different. We don't want to be in crowds, we will be six feet apart from each other and big family reunions will be virtual. But a quieter day gives us more time to reflect on the generation who lives at Beatitudes Campus. Our residents have shown throughout their life that they are courageous and selfless and work together with grit and determination for the common good. They have lived through wars, troubling economic times, and now a pandemic of unprecedented proportions. I am humbled how they have come together – separately but together – to beat the spread of COVID-19. They have pushed through loneliness, have lifted the spirits of their neighbors and staff through notes, phone calls and emails, they have sewn masks and enlisted their friends to do the same. They are our heroes and we honor their personal sacrifices to keep our community safe. We are so indebted to them and we thank them.

Memorial Day at the campus will be quieter, also. We'll have flags all around the sidewalks for our residents to appreciate during their daily walks. The Bistro will offer bar-b-que deliveries. Independent Living residents and staff can be together if they are masked (groups of three only when inside and groups of six only when outside). No package deliveries will be accepted or delivered on Memorial Day to give our staff a much needed respite. They will resume on Tuesday, May 26.

As I have said in my previous communications to you, we will be taking it slowly at Beatitudes as we re-open areas within the campus. Re-opening does not mean that we are safe from the virus or that the crisis is over. We are still in a marathon relay and we aren't close to the finish line yet, but we are thoughtfully moving forward. We have heard so many times that we all are safer at home and that we, especially our vulnerable population, should remain at home as much as possible and limit our possible exposure. Each of us has an obligation and responsibility to protect ourselves, our families, our residents and our staff.

We know that the restrictions we have put in place are challenging and frustrating. I thank all of you – families, residents and staff – for the sacrifices you have made and will make during the months ahead. Our team is working diligently as we consider and plan for a phased re-opening. We are guided by the data and the recommendations and requirements placed on us by federal, state and local authorities. We remain in external lockdown in all of our areas -- Independent Living, Assisted Living and the Health Care Center, which includes no visitation and meal delivery only.

One of the most important aspects that we are considering as we plan our re-opening is the availability of testing for residents and staff. As you have heard from the media and from me, the availability of testing is quite limited. I, along with the Beatitudes team and other communities and organizations like Beatitudes, have been advocating relentlessly for increased availability of testing and we have been trying to secure access to testing. We did receive some good news for the Health Care Center regarding testing – on Saturday, May 30 from 1-4:30pm, the state of Arizona will be testing all residents and staff in the Health Care Center for COVID-19. This action is the direct result of a mandate by Gov. Doug Ducey to conduct a testing blitz of all of Arizona's 147 nursing homes. Also, in Gov. Ducey's press conference this past Wednesday, the governor stated that the

Arizona Department of Health Services will begin COVID-19 testing “blitz” all residents and staff in Assisted Living facilities. We are grateful to the state for providing that directive. We still continue to work on expanding testing for all our residents and staff in Independent Living.

Should everything remain status quo at the campus – no surge in COVID-19 cases, we will start a phased re-opening for Independent Living. We will begin to offer a few of our amenities and services that are so important to the well-being of our residents. Initially, we plan to open the fitness center and the pool on a limited basis, as well as the Life Center for indoor walking and offer limited housekeeping services. Of course, for safety, masks and social distancing will be required for all areas on campus as well enhanced infection control.

In our continued pledge of transparency during this pandemic, we have an added feature on our [COVID-19 website](#) – a new data dashboard with Beatitudes Campus and Maricopa County COVID-19 statistics of testing and cases. To find this dashboard on our COVID-19 website, click the “Links and Information” button followed by, “View the Beatitudes Campus and community COVID-19 data here.” I have reported that information weekly to you in letters, but we hope the dashboard will be a useful tool to help you keep track of all the statistics. At the campus, we have had no new cases of COVID-19 since the contracted health care worker a few weeks ago, who now has tested negative for COVID-19 and has returned to work, but not at the campus. We are blessed to report that the 15 residents who had exposure to this therapist are also showing no signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

We are well aware that our residents across the campus as well as our families and staff are experiencing fatigue with our lockdown situation. You and your loved ones miss each other. Our residents miss their families, their friends, the volunteers, the live music, the chaplains, the activities they regularly enjoy. Our staff miss seeing and talking to our residents. Smiling faces and voices are hidden and muffled behind masks at all times. We are proud of the sense of community that all of us have built here and the engagement our residents have in our community, and we’re doing our best to preserve that as much as we can with the restrictions we have in place. We still have a long way to go and it will continue to be. If you notice an unusual decline – mentally or physically – with your loved one, please let us know through the [BeWell@BeatitudesCampus.org](mailto:BeWell@BeatitudesCampus.org) email. We offer a full suite of home care services through our Beatitudes “Be at Home” program. If your loved one needs extra assistance for household chores to bathing to pet care, our Beatitudes at Home program can help during this time. We also offer our Beatitudes Home Health program, for physical and occupational therapy and medication administration. Just let us know that you have concerns and we will call you to discuss ways our Be at Home services can help.

Thanks to all of you – residents, family and staff – for embracing our core values of compassion, accountability, respect and excellence even stronger during this unprecedented time. I am truly humbled by all the shared sacrifices made. Together, we emerge even stronger. We are Beatitudes Strong! Happy Memorial Day to all of you. Stay safe and healthy.

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle L. Just". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Just, President and CEO