Dear Residents, Families and Staff,

I want to thank all of you for your support and patience these past months as we locked down the campus. All the decisions that we made were carefully thought out with the safety of our residents, staff and community as our top priority. We could not have made these moves without your cooperation. Now, as we are considering the best ways to open up, I ask for your support and patience once again. If we make the right decisions now – informed by science, data and medical experts – we can mitigate the spread of the virus and get our campus back to a more normal state. We have new guidelines to follow as we open up, and we are considering all of them as we make these decisions. Fortunately, health experts know more about the coronavirus than we did two months ago, they can point us to different levels of risk as we begin to re-engage.

I want to emphasize that the campus is still on external lockdown. Residents in our licensed areas, the Health Care Center and Assisted Living, are still required to be on total lockdown – no visitation except for required medical care and end-of-life situations. Our Independent Living residents are on a modified lockdown – no visitation from families and residents can only leave campus for health-related medical and pharmacy appointments, bank business and to get gas. This past week, we allowed gatherings of three in buildings and six outside, all while wearing masks and keeping the six-foot social distance from each other and that will continue. However, starting next week, we will begin to start a limited opening for some of our amenities. Right now, we will offer limited hours to give staff time for disinfecting the areas. We also will limit the number of people allowed to use these amenities at one time and will require social distancing at all times and masks (except for the Pool).

Beginning Monday, June 1, we will be opening the following amenities to Independent Living residents only: Fitness Center (4 hours/day), Pool (opening May 30 and open all day), Life Center for indoor walking (opening May 30 from 7-11 am), Library (1-3 pm), Lobbies in the resident buildings (all day, but the Welcome Desk/Administration Lobby is not open for gathering), the Quiet Room for meditation (located in the Life Center and by appointment only) and distribution of Holy Communion (Wednesdays only and by appointment). We also will be restart monthly Housekeeping Services (optional for the residents) and Notary Services. Dining and packages/drop-offs remain unchanged and will continue to be delivery only.

As I mentioned previously, on Saturday, May 30, all residents and all staff who work in the Health Care Center will be given the COVID-19 test by the state of Arizona. This is a very positive step for the state, and Gov. Doug Ducey has indicated that the next testing priority will be Assisted Living. We continue to advocate for testing of all residents and staff at Beatitudes Campus.
This week brought a grim milestone that we never imagined possible during our coronavirus journey. In the U.S. alone, more than 100,000 souls have been taken from this deadly virus. The scale and swiftness of this virus is hard to grasp. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families and friends who are grieving. If there is a silver lining at all from our experiences in the past three months, it is that we have gone through the coronavirus journey together and our sense of community and obligation to each other – residents, families, staff and our greater community – is stronger than ever before. We have found new ways to connect with ourselves, our families and our loved ones. We have realized that we can do things that seemed impossible and we can make sacrifices for the greater good. We are Beatitudes Strong!

Stay safe!

My best,

Michelle Just, President and CEO