

June 12, 2020

Dear Beatitudes Family,

This is a time like no other in our lives. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to produce uncertainty, especially for older adults in our communities. Since March, I have said that our top priority is protecting our residents and staff, and we will continue to do that to the best of our ability. As we have said many times, we are guided by data and we rely on guidance from state and federal authorities. As you know, Gov. Doug Ducey has re-opened Arizona despite the fact that the numbers of COVID-19 cases are rising and hospitalizations have increased over the past two weeks. I find that to be very concerning for our community. This past week, Dr. Cara Christ, Arizona's health director, sent a letter to Arizona hospitals urging them to fully activate emergency plans, to prepare for crisis care and to suspend elective surgeries if there is a shortage of staff or bed capacity. Please know that we have had our emergency plans activated since March.

What does all this mean for Beatitudes Campus? Here in Arizona, our residents and our staff are still at risk, and we must be extremely vigilant. We are using the best defenses that we can to protect the spread of the virus on campus. We have implemented mandatory mask wearing and social distancing and continue to be fastidious in infection control and handwashing. The campus is still in complete lockdown for Assisted Living and the Health Care Center, which is mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. We continue to be in "external lockdown" for Independent Living, which means no visitation from outside the community except for essential health care workers. This being said, I understand the potential harmful effects to our residents' well-being after being distanced from friends and loved ones for so long. We have decided to "open up" just a little more *within* the campus for Independent Living residents only. Last week, we encouraged residents to take walks, see their friends and neighbors within the campus (in groups of no more than three indoors and six outdoors and all socially distanced and wearing masks). With restrictions in place for social distancing and infection control, we opened the pool, the exercise room, the Library and the Life Center for indoor walking. Wearing masks is mandatory – for staff and for residents. Everything seemed to go quite well and it was such a relief for our Independent Living residents!

Additionally, this week, we started to loosen restrictions a bit more for our Independent Living (IL) residents. Although we are not opening our dining facilities, we are now allowing IL residents to pick up their meals at the Bistro and Buckwald's if they choose to do so. We will gladly still deliver if asked. Many of our residents prefer to stay "hunkered down" in their apartments because they feel safer, and we honor and applaud those decisions. We have also changed up our package/grocery delivery procedure. Families will still be able to drop off their packages for their loved ones; however, we won't require you to be screened for a fever or COVID-19 symptoms. You can drive immediately to the package drop off station and deliver your package.

We do have some news about testing. As all the residents and staff in the Health Care Center were tested two weeks ago, we are pleased to report that no resident tested positive for COVID-19! The residents were tested with the viral test (nose swab), which tests whether a person has a current



infection of COVID-19. The staff was tested with the antibody test, which tests whether a person has previously had an infection with the virus (coronavirus) that causes COVID-19. Five staff members and one contracted healthcare professional tested positive to the antibody test. The antibody test does not mean they have COVID-19 and does not confirm whether they can spread the virus that causes COVID-19. All six individuals exhibited no symptoms of COVID-19 during the past three months and do not exhibit symptoms now. As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, they are wearing masks (as they always do in the Health Care Center). These six people, as well as the entire Health Care Center staff will get follow-up testing with the viral COVID-19 test (nose swab) next Tuesday, June 16.

We are pleased that the state of Arizona is still prioritizing testing for Assisted Living residents and staff, and hopefully, the state will be administering those tests soon. We continue to relentlessly advocate for testing for all of our residents and staff.

After months of Skype and FaceTime calls with your loved ones, you will be pleased to know that we are looking into the possibility of a dedicated visitation area for our Independent Living residents and their families. We know how tough it has been for you and your loved ones not to see each other in person. We are working through details and logistics for this area – infection control protocols, scheduling, screening. We hope to have the area available in the next few weeks. For our residents in the Health Care Center and Assisted Living, however, current Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Arizona Department of Health Services regulations preclude visitation other than from essential healthcare workers or end of life situations.

If you every have any questions or concerns, please remember to email us at [BeWell@BeatitudesCampus.org](mailto:BeWell@BeatitudesCampus.org).

Your strength, sacrifice and compassion throughout this coronavirus journey has been extraordinary and inspiring to me. Because of this, we will emerge much stronger and more resilient. We are in this together. We are Beatitudes Strong!

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