Dear Beatitudes Families,

We are not out of the COVID-19 woods yet. Arizona reported a record-high 2,392 new COVID-19 cases Tuesday. It’s the first time Arizona has surpassed the 2,000 mark. More than one-fourth of all the COVID-19 cases in Maricopa County have occurred within the past week. We continue to grapple with the spread of this disease, and our biggest defense is to take precautions to avoid the spread of the virus, like wearing a mask, staying home if we can, washing our hands and keeping social distancing.

Beatitudes Campus is not immune to the spread in our community. The Health Care Center resident that we reported on Monday continues to improve, with no fever since Saturday. This resident is still housed in our Isolation Unit. The Bistro employee who tested positive for COVID-19 continues to recover and is in quarantine. We additionally want to report that a staff member in our Assisted Living (Plaza View) has tested positive for COVID-19. The employee believes the contraction of COVID-19 occurred while out of town during bereavement leave, as there were symptomatic guests present at the time. This staff member showed no symptoms before leaving for bereavement on June 7, 2020 and stated exposure to guests happened after that date. According to guidance from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, this individual is in self quarantine.

As is our protocol, Beatitudes Campus is doing our own internal contact tracing to identify and contact persons who may have been in contact with these individuals. We do this in order to help identify the chain of disease transmission and prevent further spread of the virus.

Because of the positive COVID-19 resident in the Health Care Center, all staff and all support staff who work on the third and fourth floors of the Health Care Center are wearing full personal protective equipment – masks, goggles, gowns, gloves and face shields. This is recommended by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, who is working closely with our teams in the Health Care Center and Assisted Living. The county public health department also recommended that staff in Assisted Living and Early Memory Support continue to wear masks, as they have done since the beginning of the pandemic.

Yesterday, June 16th, 166 Health Care Center staff members were administered the viral COVID-19 test (nose swab), as a follow-up to the antibody test they received two weeks ago. We should be receiving results within a week. Furthermore, we are coordinating with a local laboratory to test Bistro staff members. We are also working with our professional organization, Arizona LeadingAge, and with Arizona State University on a plan to administer campus-wide testing for COVID-19 (saliva-based) in the future. These tests have shown to be as accurate as nasal swab tests.
On a brighter note, next Sunday is Father’s Day! The videos that families and staff uploaded for Mother’s Day were so popular that we are going to do the same for Father’s Day. Our entire Beatitudes community loved doing the videos and watching them, too. If you want to see the Mother’s Day videos, please go to our YouTube channel (Video 83: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Muv7SNp0Oho&list=PLD_VvkIA8rAR2YYctAeoTHmCcm8LzbJQ&index=84&t=0s).

This weekend, we’d like to lift the hearts and souls of our residents with Father’s Day videos. So, gather your thoughts and record them with your phone and upload them onto our site. Our media team will put them all together and show them on our Community Channel 1-2 on Sunday so the entire campus can watch and enjoy your greetings. The following directions tell you how to record and upload your video:

1. Record your message in landscape mode. Please say to whom you are wishing a Happy Father’s Day. Feel free to send a greeting to all residents. Your recording should be 20 seconds in length.
2. Upload it to the website on: https://bccrew.net/video-upload

I want to just reiterate how the Beatitudes Campus team and I are working hard to ensure the safety of the residents that we serve. We are not afraid to put measures in place if we think it will help mitigate the spread of the virus. I know that we all have “lockdown fatigue.” But the coronavirus doesn’t care if we have lockdown fatigue. It’s still out there and, as the data shows, is more virulent than ever.

This recovery will not be a straight path. Every day, the team and I weigh the risks of relaxing some of our restrictions. Beatitudes Campus will advance when we can and retreat when we must, then adapt and start again. We are in uncharted water right now even after three months, and we are following the guidance of the best experts in the state and country.

I thank you for your support of what we are doing. Together, we will emerge from this stronger and smarter. Together, we are Beatitudes Strong!

Happy Father’s Day. Stay safe.

My best,

Michelle Just, President and CEO