

July 31, 2020

Good Afternoon Beatitudes Residents and Families,

It is almost unimaginable that we have been dealing with this COVID-19 Pandemic now for going on six months. There are days where it feels like just yesterday and others where it feels like it has been years. Our thoughts go out daily to our residents and you, the families, and for strength in being separated from each other and unable to have that physical contact. Thank goodness for technology and the various platforms that allow virtual visits. On that note, we are grateful to have received four new iPad from the Department of Health Services to aid in the communication of our residents and families, as these connections are crucial at this difficult time. Please be sure to let Janice Ellington, Mollie Heiden, our Life Enrichment Specialists, or Sarah Ramias our Social Worker know if you would like to set up a virtual visit with your loved on.

We continue to work on infection prevention throughout the campus. Part of any strategy to mitigate the spread of coronavirus is consistent adherence to infection control principles. Our staff is continuously educated through in-service sessions and has been diligent in following enhanced infection control protocols throughout the campus since the beginning of the pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have outlined strict protocols, which, like most guidance during this pandemic, have changed for the better as we learn more about the coronavirus. To ensure that we are executing best practices, we voluntarily enlisted the help of an infection control expert to perform an in-person audit of our protocols. No regulatory body requires this, but we wanted to go above and beyond recommendations to ensure we had robust infection control measures. The expert came on Wednesday, July 29, and spent eight hours reviewing all the floors in the Health Care Center in all of the departments, as well as other areas on campus. A formal written report will be produced, which will be shared with you when we get it.

On Tuesday, July 28, all of the residents in the Health Care Center who had not previously tested positive, were tested for COVID-19 via PCR nasal swabs. Results were returned this morning and we have two residents who tested positive for COVID-19 and are asymptomatic. They were immediately moved to the Isolation Unit and will continue to be closely monitored during their 14-day stay. The remaining 26 resident results were negative.

On Thursday, July 30, we did another mass testing of staff, which we feel, is one of the best ways to slow the spread of COVID-19. Those test results will start coming in tonight and by the end of the weekend, we should have the majority returned. An update on those will be given soon.

Next week's update will have photos and reports of what your loved ones have been doing lately.

As always, we appreciate your support and confidence as we all weather this storm together. Please be safe, stay hydrated, wear your mask, protect yourselves, and stay healthy!

Blessings!

Teresa Borton, RN, HealthCare Administrator  
Barbara Crivellaro, RN, Director of Nursing  
Cheryl Knupp, Senior VP of Health Services, Human Resources and Risk Management