

December 18, 2020

Dear Beatitudes Community,

This week has been a roller-coaster week as far as the coronavirus pandemic goes. We reached the highest of highs, with the shipment of the first vaccine (Pfizer) and the probable emergency use authorization of a second vaccine (Moderna) to be determined in the next few days. I had tears in my eyes when I watched FedEx and UPS transport the vials of the Pfizer vaccine to all parts of the country. After months of scientists working around the clock, this extraordinary effort of world-class scientists and health experts has resulted in an efficacious vaccine that will protect us from getting sick from the coronavirus. This is akin to landing on the moon! We can now see a glow of light and hope in the long tunnel we have been traveling through.

I will be sending you more detailed information about the vaccine and our partnership with CVS next week. I do want to share with you that a government advisory panel endorsed the second COVID-19 vaccine yesterday from Moderna and the Food and Drug Administration is expected to give Emergency Use Authorization for the vaccine, which is earmarked for distribution to direct care workers and residents of nursing homes and assisted living. This is truly wonderful news that will help us emerge from this pandemic. As we know now, our Health Care Center residents and designated staff are projected to receive the vaccine sometime during the week of December 27 and our Assisted Living residents and designated staff will start receiving the vaccine during the week of January 4. The campus is not mandating the vaccine but is strongly encouraging it.

This good news, though, collided with bad news. Throughout the country, COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths has reached epic levels never seen before. Sadly, Arizona leads the nation in rate of infection, and Arizona is in the "red" zone of substantial spread. The 7-day positivity rate for Arizona is 21%, one of the highest in the nation. Dr. Cara Christ, Arizona Department of Health Services director, said that a study conducted in New York indicated that three-fourths of coronavirus transmission occurs in homes, not in businesses or restaurants.

Beatitudes Campus has not been immune to the spread. We have always said that the spread of infections on campus mimics the community spread. This week, we have 15 cases of COVID-19 among residents and staff, up from one last week. Details of the individuals involved are later in this letter. We have completed our contact tracing, and it appears that most of the individuals contracted COVID-19 from family members, not from staff-to-resident, resident-to-staff or resident-to-resident. I want to again reiterate what we have been saying all along – don't gather in groups, particularly inside; wear your mask religiously; wash your hands and keep six feet or more apart. This is not the time to let down your guard. We have to "stay the course," particularly now. There is tangible hope in the vaccine, but now we must protect ourselves and each other. This is a season of wanting to be with your family over the holidays, but I urge you to think through how you are going to spend the holidays. The safest way to celebrate winter holidays is at home with the people who live with you and virtually with those who don't. Travel and gatherings with family and friends who do not live with you can increase your chances of getting or spreading COVID-19.

Please think intentionally if you are visiting your loved ones or coming to campus. Our licensed areas – Health Care Center, Early Memory Support and Assisted Living – are considered in outbreak status, which means there is no visitation outside of compassionate end of life visitation. We are not in “lockdown” for Independent Living, but I urge you to think twice before going off campus or coming to campus. Try to limit your visits with your family to essential visits only. And, whatever you decide, wear your mask, social distance, wash your hands and meet outside if at all possible.

The campus has immediately reacted to the increased spread of the virus and we remain vigilant about mitigating the spread of the virus. On Friday afternoon, we are closing the Bistro for indoor and outdoor dining and will be offering pick-up and delivery only. We are also pausing the weekend live musical entertainment and downsizing all of our fitness classes to five people.

On Monday, December 14, we conducted 375 COVID-19 tests and all results were negative except for four. On Thursday, December 17, all Health Care Center staff and of the staff who are positive, either from Monday’s tests or later in the week, one is a CNA in the Health Care Center, one was working our screening station in Plaza View/Assisted Living, one is a medication tech/caregiver in Assisted Living/Early Memory Support, two are support staff (one in Plaza View/Assisted Living and one in Assisted Living/Early Memory Support), one is a caregiver with Beatitudes at Home, one is a worker at the Bistro, and one is a housekeeper. We currently have seven residents who have tested positive. Two residents live in Plaza View Assisted Living and five live in Independent Living – four in Plaza North and one in Central Park West. All staff and residents are in quarantine in their homes. All residents in our licensed areas (Health Care Center and Plaza View/Assisted Living/Early Memory Support) will be tested again next week. Please keep all of our staff and residents in your thoughts and prayers.

I understand that this isn’t the news we want to hear; however, as the number of cases of COVID-19 are surging in Arizona and the United States, we are seeing the trend here at the campus. Now is not the time to loosen up the good habits you have practiced during the past nine months. We are so close to the finish line.

I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday. Stay well!

My best,



Michelle Just, President and CEO



COVID-19 CASES DASHBOARD

BEATITUDES CAMPUS RESIDENT COVID-19 CASES

	Active	Recovered	Deaths	Total
Skilled Nursing/Advanced Memory Support Residents	0	11	7	18
Assisted Living/Early Memory Support/Plaza View Residents	2	13	2	17
Independent Living Residents	5	6	2	13
TOTAL CASES	7	30	11	48

BEATITUDES CAMPUS STAFF COVID-19 CASES

	Active	Recovered	Deaths	Total
Health Care Center - Direct Health Care Staff	1	23	0	24
Health Care Center - Support Staff	0	10	0	10
Assisted Living/Early Memory Support/Plaza View - Direct Health Care Staff	1	11	1	13
Assisted Living/Early Memory Support/Plaza View Support Staff	3	6	0	9
Independent Living Staff (Administration/Home Services/Support Staff)	3	18	0	21
Contracted Health Care Workers	0	2	0	2
TOTAL CASES	8	70	1	79

