

May 14, 2021

Dear Beatitudes Community,

Every May, for more than 50 years, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living recognizes Older Americans Month to acknowledge and lift up the contributions of older adults in our nation. This year, they are celebrating "Communities of Strength," which is especially relevant as we ease out of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions we experienced during the past year. Throughout, we have certainly realized just how resilient our residents, families and staff are – our community is Beatitudes Strong! We communicated with each other, supported each other and showed an incredible amount of resilience. We certainly showed the power of connection and engagement in keeping our community strong! Thank you to everyone.

With most of our residents and a majority of staff vaccinated, and weekly COVID-19 rates in our community decreasing, the pandemic-related restrictions that halted visitors and group activities are gradually being modified. We shared with you Independent Living guidelines last week (which can be found at beatitudescampus.org/beatitudes-family and by clicking on "Visitor Guidelines and Forms"). Vaccinations are a long-awaited turning point in lifting restrictions at Beatitudes Campus and returning to a more engaged and connected community.

Just yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do not need to wear masks indoors or outdoors, except under certain circumstances. More guidance for Beatitudes Campus will come out next week; however, for Independent Living residents only, we will allow *vaccinated* residents to unmask indoors or outdoors. Staff and family members will still need to wear a mask at this time. We will still be practicing social distancing throughout the campus. Watch for new guidelines coming out next week. All unvaccinated residents must still wear masks when with other people.

We still need to be cautious and know that, as with everything related to this pandemic, all guidance could change depending on circumstances. We also need to be aware that we are required to wait for Arizona Department of Health Services and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide guidance in regard to residents who reside in the Health Care Center and in Assisted Living.

Ensuring that as many people as possible are fully vaccinated is crucial in ending this pandemic. We respect that getting vaccinated is a personal choice. It's normal and perfectly OK to have questions or concerns about the vaccine. We know that that are some people in our Beatitudes community of residents, families and staff are fearful, doubtful and have many questions about the vaccine. Some people are in a "wait-and-see" category. We want to help you! Over the next few weeks, we will try to answer your questions about the vaccines. We encourage you to send your questions and concerns to BeWell@BeatitudesCampus.org and we will address your questions. Knowing that you may have the same question as others, we will share them (without using your name) with our community and on our website.



After having no COVID-19 within Beatitudes Campus for the past few weeks, we want you to know that a staff member in the Health Care Center tested positive for COVID-19 last weekend. The staff member, unvaccinated, is in quarantine. Because the Health Care Center operates under Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations, it was necessary for the Health Care Center to restrict visitation and group activities for a period of 14 days. All staff and residents were tested twice this week, and all tests were negative for COVID-19. This is very good news!

Thank you for partnering with the campus in building a community of strength and resilience! We are successful because of you – our residents, families and staff. BeStrong!

My best,



Michelle Just, President and CEO

