

July 30, 2021

Dear Beatitudes Community,

On Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that fully vaccinated people begin wearing a mask in public indoor settings in places with substantial and high COVID-19 transmission rates. Maricopa County is in a high transmission rate area (14% positivity rate). This updated guidance comes at a time when COVID cases are rising again in all 50 states due to the highly contagious Delta variant.

We have certainly lived with the unpredictable nature of COVID-19 and now, with the Delta variant. The Delta variant has forced us to shift gears. As we continue to follow the science and CDC recommendations, we are taking every step we can to protect each other, our families and our community. Effective this week, we have instituted a policy requiring all people, vaccinated or not, to mask up in all public indoor areas on campus. This policy affects all residents, staff, visitors and vendors.

We all know that masks provide good protection from getting or spreading the virus, but the best preventive measure is to be fully vaccinated. The vaccine is highly effective in preventing severe disease and hospitalization. I urge you to get vaccinated if you haven't already. Infections in fully vaccinated people (breakthrough infections) happen rarely and when they do occur, the infection tends to be mild. However, some emerging data suggests that fully vaccinated people who do become infected with the Delta variant can spread the virus to others.

We are also boosting our testing program for staff. We have continually been testing unvaccinated team members weekly. Effective immediately, we are testing all unvaccinated staff twice weekly, which is required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services when community transmission rates in Maricopa County are over 10%. Out of an abundance of caution, we are testing all vaccinated staff weekly. Our robust testing program was quite successful previously in mitigating the spread of the virus, and we know it will be now, too.

Currently, 98% of residents and 73.6% of staff are vaccinated. This week, we have had one Independent Living resident (fully vaccinated) test positive for COVID-19 and one additional staff member (Independent Living staff) test positive this week. We now have a total of three active cases this week (one resident and two staff). They currently in quarantine for COVID-19. Neither of the staff are direct care workers, and one was fully vaccinated and the other had one dose of a two-dose series). All have had reasonably mild symptoms and contact tracing on all these individuals has been completed.

Please stay safe. Masks on!

My best,



Michelle Just, President and CEO

