

October 8, 2021

Dear Beatitudes Community,

Throughout this pandemic, I have pledged to you that Beatitudes Campus will do everything we can to protect our residents and staff and provide a safe and healthy environment for all. On September 15, I announced that we were requiring all staff across the campus who are able to get the vaccine to be fully vaccinated by November 15. It is our calling and our responsibility to create the safest environment we can at all times, not just during this pandemic. In addition to robust infection control policies, we have now included a vaccination requirement. Virtually every resident on campus who can be vaccinated has been. Now, it is our turn to have every staff member, contractor and volunteer to be fully vaccinated.

The overwhelming majority of our staff understand the imperative to get the vaccine. I am so proud of our staff who are living our mission by rolling up their sleeves. It's been a concerted team effort, centered on education and trust among all involved. We have a unique and special responsibility to keep our Beatitudes family safe. We believe our residents deserve to live in a vaccinated environment, and our staff deserves to work in a vaccinated environment.

Since announcing the mandate, almost 45% of the unvaccinated staff have started the vaccine process. Now, almost 80 percent of our staff are fully vaccinated (2 shots plus 14 days or 1 shot plus 14 days, depending on the vaccine manufacturer). We have one more month to go to get to 100% vaccination rate for the staff who are able to get the vaccine. I know we will be able to achieve this!

COVID-19 is still part of our greater community. As of Tuesday, October 5, Arizona ranks 16th in the nation with its high positivity rate of 12%. Most cases are in the 20 to 44 year-old group. We have a way to go, and vaccinations are key in slowing the spread of this virus. At Beatitudes, we want to inform you that an unvaccinated direct care worker in the Health Care Center tested positive for COVID-19, due to exposure to a family member. There was no exposure of this individual to residents or staff.

If you have not already received the vaccine, I urge you to do so. Vaccinations, along with appropriate masking and social distancing are key to stopping this pandemic in its track. We are Beatitudes Strong!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michelle L. Just'.

Michelle Just, President and CEO

