

December 23, 2021

Dear Beatitudes Community,

*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.* These words were written by the American author William Arthur Ward and are especially true during this holiday season after another challenging year. I want to let you know how deeply grateful and appreciative I am for the Beatitudes community – for your support, your love and your hard work. My holiday wish to you is for you to be able to embrace your family and friends with a renewed sense of hope and joy. This year has been a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together, and I will cherish how we have come together as a community. I hope that, together, we will look ahead with anticipation toward a new year and new beginnings.

I know that there is a lot of uncertainty and a little bit of fear about the new COVID-19 variant, Omicron. Health officials say that the risk is low for vaccinated people attending family gatherings when everyone is vaccinated and even lower risk if all have gotten their booster. If you are attending a gathering with a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated people, you may want to move your event outdoors or wear a mask indoors and keep your distance. Keep in mind the multiple layers of protection we have – vaccinations and boosters, mask wearing, testing and distancing. If you have testing available, the risk is even lower if you and your family get tested before the gathering.

Beatitudes staff continues to be tested for COVID-19 on a regular basis. Today, we have two fully vaccinated staff who tested positive. One staff member is a direct care staff in Plaza View Assisted Living and the other works as a campus support staff. Both are quarantining at home. As a precaution, the staff in Plaza View will be wearing KN95 masks with their face shields. Additionally, one Independent Living resident who lives in Central Park North tested positive and is quarantining. Our thoughts are with these individuals and their families.

For any residents leaving the campus for the holidays, we will have KN95 masks available if they choose. They will be available at the Security Pavilion and at the Welcome Center. Next week, we will be distributing one KN95 mask to all residents.

May you have a safe and wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

Blessings,

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

Michelle Just, President and CEO