

December 30, 2021

Dear Beatitudes Community,

It is a great privilege to have the opportunity to thank all of you – residents, families, staff and Board of Directors – for being such a source of strength for the campus. 2021 has been a year of transition. We have overcome the uncertainties and challenges of this past year with courage, and we have achieved much. It's hard to imagine, but just one year ago, on December 29, we held our first COVID-19 vaccine clinic for residents in the Health Care Center, who were the first residents to receive the shot. What a miracle that day was, memorialized by a beautiful story of our residents, Hootie Redwine and Peggy Allaire, which aired on MSNBC. (You can watch it again at: <https://on.msnbc.com/3aVBso3> and at <https://on.msnbc.com/3pE70mi>.)

This set us up on a path of preventing the spread of the coronavirus as best we could. We prayed for all who got COVID and rejoiced when they recovered. We mourned the loss of some treasured friends and celebrated their meaningful lives. We isolated when we had to and came together with bright smiles when we could. We adjusted, shifted and embraced our ever-changing “normal.” I think, even in times that seemed dark, we continued to live brightly. Thanks to each and every one of you for showing how resilience, determination and faith wins. Together we are stronger.

With the new variant of Omicron, COVID continues to be at the forefront, but it isn't as scary as it was a year ago. Although highly transmissible, those who are vaccinated and boosted generally don't get severe disease with this variant. Even though we are weary of all the precautions we know we need to take, like mask wearing, social distancing, hand hygiene, we must still keep them up. On Thursday, December 30, we distributed one KN95 mask to each of our residents, and are encouraging them to wear them if they are going to larger, indoor gatherings. They are the best protective masks we can wear. We just wanted to get our residents started with the best mask. These masks can be purchased online on sites like Amazon, Target and Walmart and are also available in pharmacies like Walgreen's and CVS.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has changed some guidance regarding quarantining for asymptomatic positive cases or those who have improved symptoms after five days. The guidance for asymptomatic positive cases allows quarantining for five days (instead of 10), along with a “well-fitting mask” in all public places for the next five days. The campus is allowing staff to return to work with a negative test prior to returning and with KN95 masking for the next five days. The CDC also gave new guidance about exposure to individuals with COVID-19. For vaccinated and boosted individuals, there is no need to quarantine if they are exposed, but they must wear “well-fitting” masks like a KN95 mask for 10 days. For unvaccinated individuals or for individuals who have not received a booster and who are more than six months out for their second dose of the mRNA vaccine or two months after the J&J

vaccine, the quarantine time is five days, followed by five days of wearing well-fitting masks (KN95 masks).

Out of an abundance of caution, as the country and Phoenix are seeing a surge of people testing positive for COVID-19, the campus is returning to twice-a-week staff testing. We know that testing is one of the keys to detection of the virus. As additional protection, staff in Assisted Living are wearing masks and face shields and, in the Health Care Center, staff is in full PPE. Since last week, we have eight Independent Living support staff, two Assisted Living direct care staff, one Health Care Center support staff and one Health Care Center direct care staff test positive, with mild symptoms. Contact tracing is being conducted and all are in quarantine.

I am so grateful when I think about the past year and look ahead into 2022. All of you have created the ever-changing landscape that is Beatitudes Campus. You are the reason we show up every day. You are the reason we do what we do. You inspire us, encourage us and give us purpose. Thank you for your faith in us as we walk together into a bright future.

May you have a safe and healthy New Year.

Blessings,



Michelle Just, President and CEO

