

March 11, 2022

Dear Beatitudes Community,

On February 25, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revised its federal masking guidance for the COVID-19 pandemic, including changes to the metrics for determining whether to require face coverings in indoor settings. On a community level, the CDC has issued new risk metrics, which now include a combination of case levels, hospitalizations and hospital capacity. When the risk is low to medium, people can gather indoors without masking. When the risk level is high, masking will be recommended. The move to ease up on masking reflects current conditions at this phase of the pandemic, including widespread immunity through vaccination and prior infection as well as better access to testing and treatments. Using these new risk guidelines will help us know when to reach for masks again if conditions warrant it.

In light of these new metrics, with Maricopa County in the medium risk category, Beatitudes Campus has now adopted a “Mask Optional” policy for staff, residents and visitors. However, we encourage masking for individuals who are personally at high risk, and we require masking if an individual has COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19 or have had exposure to someone with COVID-19.

These guidelines **do not** apply to our licensed areas (Health Care Center, Plaza View Assisted Living and Virginia G. Piper Memory Support). They are regulated by the Arizona Department of Health Services, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and those guidelines have not yet been updated. Masking is required for all residents, staff and visitors who are in those buildings.

I do want to emphasize that we will continue to be respectful of people’s personal choice for mask wearing. In addition to vaccinations, adding this layer of protection may be helpful for many people, such as people who are immunocompromised or who have high-risk individuals or unvaccinated children living in their home. Many people may feel more comfortable wearing a mask. Beatitudes staff are required to carry a mask at all times on campus and will ask the people they are with if they prefer them to wear a mask or not.

COVID-19 cases have continued to show a steep decline in Maricopa County and we are experiencing the same here at Beatitudes Campus. As of this writing, on Tuesday, two residents living together in Independent Living have tested positive for the virus and are isolating in their apartment. No staff is currently positive. We continue our testing protocol and will be assessing the frequency of testing on a weekly basis.

Last month, I shared with you the Pillars of our Strategic Plan – Facilities and Information Technology, Workforce Development, Community Culture and Financial. We are adding team members to each strategic pillar and refining the overarching strategic goals and key strategic initiatives for each pillar. Within each pillar, we identified opportunities for growth and innovation along with financial sustainability. In the coming months, I will share our progress with you.

Thank you for confidence in Beatitudes Campus as we move forward together.

My best,



Michelle Just, President and CEO

