

April 8, 2022

Dear Beatitudes Community,

We have weathered the COVID-19 pandemic together as a community for many months. Following the science and public health advice and tremendous resilience from residents, staff and families, we are now clearly emerging from the threat of the recent Omicron variant. Our mission-driven culture, our values and our real optimism have helped guide us through the past pandemic months. We aren't taking a victory lap yet, but we are optimistic about current trends we see in the data.

We continue to follow the data, and we have shifted to a mask-optional environment on campus. The exception to this is for individuals who live, work or visit in our licensed buildings (Health Care Center, Early Memory Support and Plaza View Assisted Living), who must continue to wear masks. Also, anyone who rides in a campus van or bus will be required to follow the U.S. Transportation Security Agency's mask mandate and wear a mask while riding on campus buses, at least through April 18. Anyone is certainly welcome to wear a mask at any time if they feel safer wearing one. In light of the data in Maricopa County, our COVID-19 testing has been modified this week. Additionally, staff who are up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses (including the booster doses) will no longer be required to test twice weekly. Staff with approved exemptions and staff who are not up to date with the recommended vaccine doses are still required to test twice weekly. We continue to closely monitor the data, and, if the data indicates that mask-wearing or testing is warranted, we will amend the current policies. The cases of COVID-19 on campus are minimal. As of this writing, no staff is positive with COVID-19. Three Independent Living residents have tested positive for the virus. They are isolating and have minimal symptoms.

We are thrilled that we are able to come back with activities and engagement activities, now, too! Take a look at the calendar of activities in the Roadrunner, and you will be amazed at everything that is being offered – classes, meetings, creative times, music, spiritual life, group outings, shopping trips, support groups and special activities. How wonderful it is to see residents out and about – the campus is alive again!

We have good news about dining, too! We have re-opened the Bistro with in-person dining, with breakfast every day and lunch and dinner on Sunday through Thursday. The Grab and Go section remains open all day. Buckwald's is also open for in-person dining, too, with lunch on Tuesday through Saturday with a selection of entrees and buffet service. Buckwald's will also be open for dinner on Tuesday through Saturday with a steakhouse-style menu. We encourage all to come in person and eat and enjoy the community of friends. For all those coffee lovers, we have an added treat at Corner Perk with a professionally trained barista making those oh-so-good coffee drinks we all enjoy.

Moving out of the pandemic in such a successful way would not have been possible without you. Thank you for your support and resilience.

My best,

*Michelle L. Just*

Michelle Just, President and CEO

