



## From the CEO

We are now into the second week of the 2019 coronavirus (COVID 19). We know that you are concerned about the virus and its effects of your family, friends, and the community at Atherton Baptist Homes. Our mission has not changed in this crisis: **To ensure residents are cared for in a safe and healthy environment**, but I would also add: **To ensure our employees work in a safe and healthy environment.**

As I said before preventing the spread of infectious disease has always been an important issue in the Atherton community. We have had guidelines, protocol, and procedures for many years designed to mitigate and protect against infectious disease. During this current crisis, we have intensified these procedures. I am pleased to say at this time, we don't have any cases of COVID 19 in our community, nor have we had any staff who have been diagnosed with COVID 19. We continue to follow the guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health, and California Department of Social Services when establishing practices for combatting this virus.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> we followed the directive of the state to close the Skilled Nursing, Companion Care, and Assisted Living facilities to all visitor (which included family members). We also began meal service to these residents' rooms instead of congregate dining.

In Independent Living we ask residents to stay home as much as possible and on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> we began meal delivery to their units. We are discouraging visitors from coming on campus and have cancelled all non-essential activities and told our residents to practice "social distancing" in their conversations with one another. If you do come to the campus, we are asking you to sign in at the front desk and answer a series of questions related to health and travel, wash your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer, and get your temperature taken. If you have any symptoms of respiratory illness or fever, sore throat, runny nose, and/or shortness of breath, please do not come on campus. These are the same procedures and guidelines that all our staff follow when they come to work on our campus each day.

We continue to believe that connecting with loved ones is incredibly important and there are a variety of other ways you might consider connecting with them. We encourage you to use the telephone, email, text, or through Skype, Facetime, or Facebook. Our team is more than willing to help your loved get connected and you can give us a call if you need our help. Two other activities are unique to Atherton: our Town Hall and our Sunday evening chapel service. These events are cancelled for now, but we are trying to follow the lead of many churches and make these activities available through the internet and our closed-circuit TV system. This will be another way to keep our residents and families connected with Atherton life.

We continue to remind you to be safe and practice the prevention steps which include following strict handwashing procedure and use of approved hand sanitizers. We also encourage you to

use disinfectant cleaning products on all surface to keep your environment safe and be aware of symptoms of the virus so that you can get treatment as soon as possible.

As you are aware, circumstances have been changing daily, and this may require us to change our procedures. We want to keep you informed. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at:

**Atherton Baptist Homes**  
**214 South Atlantic Blvd.**  
**Alhambra, CA 91801**  
**(626) 863 - 1581**

Also you can sign up for [athertonupdates@abh.org](mailto:athertonupdates@abh.org) if you want to be kept informed of changes in our community. Thank you for your continued support and for being a valuable member of our community.

With gratitude,

Rev. J. Craig Statton

CEO, Atherton Baptist Homes