



From the CEO

Last week Atherton was informed that one of our employees had tested positive for COVID-19. This employee was asymptomatic and completely surprised by these test results. Prior to this news, Atherton, following the guidelines mandated by the California Department of Public Health, was told that even though our Skilled Nursing Facility did not have a case of COVID-19, we were to test to make sure, to establish a baseline. The result of this baseline testing was that all 96 residents of Atherton tested negative for COVID-19. In conjunction with this resident testing, we also asked all employees to be tested. We have now had six employees who tested positive for COVID-19. We have taken the appropriate steps of quarantine, contact tracing, cleaning, isolation protocols and personal protective equipment for each level of care. (Currently all the residents are well, and no one has any signs or symptoms of the disease. The infected employees have had varying degrees of the illness, but are all recovering) This next week Atherton is retesting all residents who live in Skilled Nursing and all the Atherton staff so that we can continue to protect, care, trace and eliminate this virus from our community.

Back in March, we stated that one of our missions during this crisis was: **To ensure residents are cared for in a safe and healthy environment, and to ensure our employees work in a safe and healthy environment.** For more than 9 weeks we were able keep this disease from darkening our doors, but as Southern Californians began to go back out into the community, the virus found a way in. Considering this, we reviewed all of our infection protocols and procedures and reviewed these guidelines with our staff. We continue to follow the guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) when establishing practices for combatting this virus.

On March 14th we followed the directive of the state to close the Skilled Nursing, Companion Care, and Assisted Living facilities to all visitors (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 16th we began meal delivery to their units. We continue to discourage visitors from coming on campus and have cancelled all non-essential activities and told our residents to wear masks when outside their unit and to practice "social distancing". 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. These guidelines and regulations are still in place and we do not anticipate they will change in the near future.

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 one get connected, and you can give us a call if you need our help. We have also established Atherton Online on Tuesday nights and you are welcome to join in from your own home through Facebook. Just go to Facebook and make Atherton a friend.

We continue to remind you to be safe and practice the prevention steps which include wearing face masks, following strict handwashing procedures, and using approved hand sanitizers. We also encourage you to use disinfectant cleaning products on all surfaces to keep your environment safe. Be aware of symptoms of the virus so that you can get treatment as soon as possible.

Atherton has also started an email tree to send out daily updates. You can send an email to athertonupdates@abh.org and we will add your email to our tree. Thank you for your continued support and for being a valuable member of our community.

Although we are disappointed with the arrival of the virus, we also planned for this day to happen. When the stay at home order was being lifted, we believed that the virus would eventually touch us. We believe the steps we have taken, the PPE we have acquired, and the testing which is available will all help us protect the residents and staff and minimize the effects of the virus's presence. We want to keep you informed. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by email or by phone at 626-863-1581.

Grace and peace,

Rev. J. Craig Statton

CEO, Atherton Baptist Homes