



ATHERTON

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FROM THE CEO – Atherton COVID Update – March, 2022

In March of 2020, the president of the United States issued an unprecedented order in our lifetime, asking all citizen to “shelter in place” because of the spread of a coronavirus and the concern of a worldwide pandemic. The hope was that we would stop the spread in America and around the world to avoid the worst effects of the new virus outbreak. Initially it was thought the shutdown would only last 6 weeks. As it turned out, we did not stop the spread, and there were new and different mitigations throughout our county to try to “contain, cope with, and defeat” this virus which had led to both social and economic stress. But now, two years later, America is in a better place related to the virus; we have more tools to help people deal with the worst effects of the virus and recover from the disease. As a result, once again things are changing in our area and community related to our COVID protocols.

At Atherton, for the most part, the campus is open, and we have resumed most activities. We are still requiring people to wear masks at indoor gatherings, but we are having weekly chapels, visitors are regularly coming in and out of Skilled Nursing, residents are enjoying coffee with one another every morning, and our venues are open to our Atherton residents. We are asking our visitors about their vaccination status, and we are asking for all visitors to check their temperature and answer a series of health questions. For visitors to have indoor visits in Skilled Nursing, they are required to have proof of a negative COVID test within the last 24 hours, even if they are up to date on their vaccination status.

We at Atherton attribute this restoration of our activities to the vaccines. They have been remarkably safe and effective. As I write this update, over 98% of our residents are fully vaccinated and boosted and 90% of our staff are also fully vaccinated and boosted. (The new terminology is that people who are fully vaccinated and boosted now are “up-to-date” in their COVID vaccination status.) The surge of the virus variant called Omicron this past holiday season did not have the impact on our campus as the previous year. From December 9, 2021 to date, 27 staff members and 4 residents have tested positive for the virus. No one has been hospitalized, no one has died, no one has had major symptoms, and all have fully recovered.

The COVID 19 virus has certainly upended our world at Atherton. It has touched us in a very personal way with the death and illness of loved ones, but it has also taught us to treasure our community and give thanks for each day we are able to live on earth. The development of tests, vaccines, and therapeutics gave us the ability to not only cope with, but also overcome this virus. Things are better at Atherton and in our community. We thank God for this blessing, but we also appreciate the blessing of our staff, our residents, and friends and family who have worked with us during this time. We are not done with the virus, but we are definitely in a better place.

Grace and Peace to you,

Craig Statton, CEO of Atherton Baptist Homes

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