

July 23, 2021

Dear Residents and Family Members,

We hope you and your loved ones are healthy and well. As you know, Mather has been able to relax some COVID-19 restrictions within our senior living communities; however, we continue to monitor trends, including the rise in COVID-19 cases across the nation and in the counties where our communities are located.

We request your continued vigilance in core infection control practices.

Specifically, we request that you and your visitors follow these guidelines, including a new guideline for visitors:

- screening of visitors who enter the community
- frequent hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water)
- **visitors' use of face masks (covering mouth and nose) in community amenity spaces**
- physical distancing at least six feet between persons when possible
- using outdoor spaces for gatherings when possible

At this time, **we are continuing the use of face masks for employees** throughout the communities for the reasons noted below. Please know that we routinely evaluate the need for this standard:

- The number of COVID-19 cases is rising, particularly the highly contagious delta variant.
- The use of face masks as “source control” is a requirement of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and other regulatory agencies for The Mather Life Center and Sonora. (Many employees work across the continuum.)
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued guidance that requires we implement measures to protect employees from potential exposure to COVID-19, and wearing face masks is one of those measures.
- We serve people who are at higher risk for illness if exposed to COVID-19.
- New employees and residents may not yet be fully vaccinated.
- We have visitors coming into the community whose vaccination status is unknown.

The good news is that being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is shown to be effective in reducing risk of contracting COVID-19 disease, and especially risk of severe illness and death.



The health and well-being of residents and employees remains our top priority. We are learning new information about COVID-19 as the pandemic progresses. Practicing strong infection control measures continues to be important. We will provide updates to you, as information is fluid and guidelines may change.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Please take care and stay well.

Sincerely,

Katrina O'Neill
Executive Director

PS: Please note that this letter is being shared with all residents' current emergency contacts.



7/23/21