



## Ascension Living

August 19, 2021

Dear Ascension Living Residents and Family Members,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues and new variants of the virus emerge, Ascension continues to focus on ensuring both those we serve and our associates are protected – for the safety of residents/patients and visitors, our associates, our families and loved ones, and the community. Like many health systems across the country, including in many of our markets, we are proactively implementing precautions that reduce risk of exposure to others and are requiring our associates to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

On July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [updated guidance](#) on the need to increase COVID-19 vaccination and a recommendation for everyone in areas of [substantial or high transmission](#) to wear a mask in public indoor places, even if they are fully vaccinated. This updated directive came due to the fact that the Delta variant is considered more infectious and is leading to increased transmissibility when compared to other variants, even in vaccinated individuals. On Aug. 18, 2021, President Biden announced plans to direct CMS to make employee vaccination a condition of funding for nursing homes. The health department would still need to develop and finalize the new regulations slated for next month. Based on these advisories, Ascension Living assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing communities will be making the following changes, regardless of an individual's vaccination status.

- Residents must wear face coverings when outside of their rooms and when staff or visitors enter their rooms. Residents who cannot tolerate masks and those who cannot remove masks will physically distance themselves from others.
- Associates and healthcare partners must continue to wear proper personal protective equipment. As previously shared, Ascension is requiring our associates to be vaccinated against COVID-19 no later than Nov. 12, 2021.
- Visitors will need to check in and out at the kiosk, wear properly fitting face coverings (over the nose and mouth), and physically distance themselves from staff, residents, and other visitors while inside and outside the community.
- Vaccinated newly admitted residents will be in a 14-day observation period. Unvaccinated newly admitted residents will need to quarantine for 14 days.

As healthcare providers, we understand that long periods of difficulty, like the past 18 months, can result in a deep sense of uncertainty in many of us. We hope that as more



Americans become vaccinated we will overcome this pandemic. For information about the COVID-19 vaccine, I encourage you to visit

[www.healthcare.ascension.org/covid-19/covid-vaccine](http://www.healthcare.ascension.org/covid-19/covid-vaccine).

Thank you for your continued trust in our care and service.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael Bloise', is positioned above the typed name.

Rafael Bloise, MD, MA, MBA  
Chief Medical Officer  
Ascension Living