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## COVID-19 UPDATE

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**TO:** WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND STAFF  
**FROM:** BARB NATHAN  
**DATE:** JANUARY 15, 2021

Thursday was the start of the tenth month of this hard journey. It was on March 13<sup>th</sup> that our world suddenly changed. Yesterday was also the day we planned in earnest for our next vaccination clinic in which approximately 570 people will be vaccinated: our whole community. The news that those in Independent Living would be able to get immunized here at Westminster, beginning in two weeks, was great news. The glimmer of hope is strengthening.

Unfortunately, we are trying to hold on to this glimmer from the darkest point of this journey for our community. Four residents, four members of the Westminster family, died in this past week who had previously tested positive for COVID. I pray for the families of these residents and for our staff as they grieve these losses. I also give thanks for the lives that each one led and the contributions they made. My heart breaks thinking about the fact that some of them died alone in a COVID unit at the hospital. Here we have reserved a section of Martin Health Center for anytime we need to provide end of life care as this area is segregated and we can allow families to be with their loved ones. I have talked with the head of medical affairs at the hospital to let them know we have the ability to connect people at end of life and implored him to help us meet our residents' needs. Currently, there are two residents that are hospitalized and four in the isolation unit here.

All Assisted Living residents and staff tested negative.

Everyone needs to keep doing the following things to protect yourself and each other: wear your mask, keep your distance and wash hands frequently. We pray the vaccine protects each one of us from the symptoms of this virus but certainly don't want to test it by unnecessarily exposing anyone.

This morning I saw the following statement:

"Hope is like a bird that senses the dawn and carefully starts to sing while it is still dark."

The source of this is unknown, and perhaps you've read it before. I found comfort in it. May you as well.