



## COVID-19 Update

February 26, 2021

This week, our nation remembered the over 500,000 people who have died from COVID-19 in the past year. Here at Covia during our semi-annual meetings, Ron Schaefer, our Chief Operating Officer, shared that seven of those deaths have been among our own residents. It may be a small number compared to half a million, but to the family and friends of those seven people, these deaths are significant, painful, and real. We invite you this weekend to take time to remember them, perhaps setting aside seven minutes of silence to commemorate those in our Covia community whom we have lost in the midst of this pandemic.

The Task Force reflected on the past year as we mark one year of meeting together and consider what the future holds. We shared some of our memories and how this work has had an impact on us in a new blog post here: <https://covia.org/blog/reflections-from-the-covid-19-task-force/>. All of us want to share that it is a privilege to support you.

In a pulse survey to our employees, we asked what measures our employees would suggest for increasing our preparedness or improving our COVID-19 response. We received many helpful recommendations, but overall we were encouraged to hear that our employees feel positive about our response. We want to make it clear that all the plans in the world mean nothing without the people who carry them out. Thank you to everyone, residents and employees, who have kept us safe and healthy through your actions.

One employee commented, “No bajar la guardia, porque el enemigo aún no ha sido vencido,” which (according to Google translate) means “Do not lower your guard, because the enemy has not yet been defeated.” Even as numbers go down and some counties begin to be in the Red tier, remember that this positive trend will only continue if we keep up our practices of staying home except for essential business, wearing masks and maintaining a safe distance between people when we are out, washing our hands, taking symptoms of COVID-19 seriously, and getting vaccinated when you can, if you haven’t already done so. Although we have come a long way, we still have some distance to go.

Next Friday, March 5, is Employee Appreciation Day. We hope you know that you are appreciated every day. This year, we encourage residents and managers to share a special message or act of kindness with all of our employees who have done and continue to do so much. Thank you, as always, for all you do.