



TO All Mercy Circle Residents  
FROM Frances Lachowicz, Executive Director  
DATE March 23, 2020  
RE Governor JB Pritzker's Statewide Stay-at-Home Order

On Saturday, March 21, following the advice of leading public health officials, Governor Pritzker put into effect a statewide Stay-at-Home order. His goal is to keep new cases of COVID-19 from rapidly increasing and to ensure Illinois' healthcare system is fully operational to treat patients in need of urgent care.

Here is what this means for you:

Like all Illinoisans, this order calls for residents to stay-at-home as much as possible, and only leave to meet their basic needs. This order permits a range of activities that allow Illinoisans to get their necessities **while maintaining a social distance of six feet from other.**

**“Essential” activities include but are not limited to:**

- **For health and safety**—seeking emergency services, medical supplies and medications, visiting a healthcare professional.
- **For necessary supplies and services**—obtaining groceries and food, household products essential to maintain the safety, sanitation and operation of a home
- **For outdoor activity**—walking, hiking, running or biking around your home or public parks
- **For certain types of work**—some businesses are deemed “essential” and therefore are permitted to remain open for employees to work. Examples include hospitals, nursing homes, city services, government functions and services that support out state's infrastructure
- **For taking care of others**—caring for or transporting a family member, friend or pet in another household which *does not apply to visiting family members or friends in nursing homes or senior living communities due to the restricted visitor policy already in effect*

**In sum, only go out if you need essential items for your health and well-being, such as groceries, medications, medical procedures and doctor visits.**

Grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations and banks will remain open, however, they may have reduced hours of operations. Hospitals, physician offices and medical services remain open. Some restaurants will continue to be open for carry-out or curbside service only. All other non-essential business will be closed until April 7, 2020 per order of Governor Pritzker.

Key safety reminders:

- Wash your hands often, and especially upon returning to Mercy Circle
- Take precautions to keep space between yourself and others
- Only go out in public if necessary, and when you do, keep away from others who are sick; limit close contact; avoid touching things; and wash your hands
- Monitor yourself for signs or symptoms of cold or flu. Call the receptionist if you are not feeling well because **it is important and necessary for you to let us know if you are sick**
- If you are not feeling well, stay in your apartment until you feel better or have been seen by your physician

Mercy Circle is here to assist. Our staff is happy to provide you with support and assistance to meet your daily needs. Paul May in our transportation department will continue with scheduled trips to the grocery store and bank. We also can assist you in placing online orders for your essentials. Please ask Sheila Costello in the administrative office for assistance or more information.