



May 29, 2020

Dear Residents, Family Members and Staff Members,

We continue to count our blessings. We have had no positive cases of COVID-19 among our residents. Two staff members in the nursing department, who have tested positive, are at home recuperating from the virus.

We always notify the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health about any occurrence of the virus and report any new positive test results to you in compliance with IDPH communication guidelines. We ask you to join us in respecting the privacy of a person receiving positive test results by observing HIPAA's confidentiality rules.

Mercy Circle continues to adhere to all guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as well as the Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health.

In response to the recent incidents of two nursing staff members testing positive, Mercy Circle has initiated these additional mitigating strategies:

- Contact tracing of co-workers of the staff member who tested positive to notify them about risk of exposure and to offer testing
- Face shields worn by all staff working in the assisted living wing
- Assessment to identify COVID-19 signs and symptoms of all residents, who live on the first floor of our assisted living wing, as well as assigned staff members by our Director of Nursing and AL Nurse Manager
- Continued screening at the beginning of and during each shift of all staff members
- Need for further testing of residents, who present signs or symptoms of the virus, determined by our Medical Director, Moira McQuillan, M.D.
- Testing for all skilled nursing care residents will be conducted today at the recommendation of Dr. McQuillan

Mercy Circle continues to comply with recommended protocols and practices to abate the spread of the virus including the following:

For staff members who are

- Screened, including temperature, two times per shift
- Consistently assigned to specific areas in the community

- Not allowed to work if they have symptoms related to COVID-19 and are directed to isolate at home until they are symptom-free and cleared to return to work
- Directed to practice hand-hygiene, universal masking and social distancing when it is possible to do so while providing care
- Directed to follow strict infection control measures while at work

For residents who are

- Screened three times a day for any signs of COVID-19 if they live in our long-term care, memory care and assisted living wings
- Screened, including temperature, and self-monitored daily for signs of COVID -19 when they reside in our independent living wing; if they detect symptoms, residents should contact their physician and then notify our Director of Nursing, Anita Ajayi, RN, at extension 3664, because she is responsible for tracking data for Mercy Circle
- Advised those in independent living only are to leave the community for essential visits, such as physician appointments and errands for medications and groceries
- Encouraged to practice hand-hygiene, universal masking and social distancing

Mercy Circle also

- Maintains a strict no visitor policy with the exception of end-of-life visits for which approved visitors are screened and required to wear a mask
- Continues to suspend all gatherings and communal activities and dining
- Disinfects throughout each day high-touch common areas
- Has an adequate inventory of PPE and medical supplies
- Reports appropriate and sufficient staffing for all levels of living and care
- Continues to employ droplet and isolation precautions for residents in our skilled nursing care wing

Please be confident our staff members and residents will do their best to combat COVID-19. Please contact me at 773-253-3627 so we can talk about any topic important to you.



Frances Lachowicz
Executive Director