



June 2, 2020

Dear Residents, Family Members and Staff Members,

As we make plans to open more areas of Mercy Circle, we balance those eagerly awaited opportunities with prudence and precaution. In consultation with Moira McQuillan, M.D., our medical director, and Mercy Circle's clinical team, we have devised a new plan for COVID-19 testing for residents and staff members.

This additional testing aligns with the most recently published rules from the Illinois Department of Public Health in response to the executive order of Governor JB Pritzker. Our goal is to continue to successfully mitigate the spread of the virus.

Starting this week, Mercy Circle's clinical team will administer nasal swab tests to all residents in assisted living and skilled nursing care. All staff members working in every area of our community also will be tested. Please join us in observing all HIPAA regulations to ensure privacy.

Because we have engaged a private laboratory for this testing period, we expect to have all results in less than 72 hours. These test results will provide a baseline for advancing our plan to reopen certain areas of Mercy Circle and to restore more programs and services. All of the plans we have devised comply with Phase 3 of both Restore Illinois and Chicago's Cautiously Reopen plans.

In all our protocols and procedures, Mercy Circle adheres 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.

Thank you for cooperating with our newest testing plan. And please be confident your entire team at Mercy Circle strives to keep COVID-19 at bay. Please contact me at 773-253-3627 so we can talk about any concerns or topics important to you.

Very truly yours,

Frances Lachowicz  
Executive Director