



June 5, 2020

Dear Residents, Family Members and Staff Members,

During this past week, all 57 residents who live in assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care were tested for COVID-19 using the PCR swab test.

I am very grateful to report every single resident received a negative test result. With universally negative outcomes, we have concluded droplet and contact precautions in the skilled nursing care unit.

We also are testing or retesting all of our staff members. We expect to have those results next week and will share their outcome. If and when an incidence occurs, we conduct contact tracing, assess for signs and symptoms, consult with our Medical Director and retest as needed.

We ask you to join us in respecting the privacy of a person receiving positive test results by observing HIPAA's confidentiality rules.

We remain very mindful of the threats concomitant with COVID-19. We observe 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. We also notify the CDPH and IDPH about any occurrence of the virus and report any new positive test results to you in compliance with IDPH communication guidelines.

Mercy Circle dutifully adheres to all guidelines and sustains its diligence by maintaining the highest standards of infection prevention and control for everyone in our community.

Staff members 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
- Required to wear personal protective equipment, including face shields where appropriate
- Directed to practice hand-hygiene, universal masking and social distancing when it is possible to do so while providing care

- Instructed to follow strict infection prevention and control measures while at work

Residents 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 units
- Screened, including temperature, and self-monitored daily for signs of COVID - 19 when they reside in our independent living apartments; 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 to leave the community only 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

It is gratifying to see how our staff members and residents work together to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in our community. Please contact me at 773-253-3627 so we can talk about any topic important to you.



Frances Lachowicz  
Executive Director