



**TO** Residents, Families and Staff Members

**FROM** Frances Lachowicz *Frances Lachowicz*

**DATE** June 25, 2020

**SUBJ** 12-Hour Notice: One Staff Member Tests Positive for Virus

Last Friday, I informed you of a new requirement by the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health to test all residents and staff members who reside and work in Mercy Circle's assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care units.

On Wednesday afternoon, one nurse who cares for skilled nursing care and assisted living residents received a positive test result. This individual is isolated at home and recuperating. Please join us in honoring this person's privacy by observing all HIPAA privacy regulations.

Yesterday, we also received test results for all residents who are being tested weekly. All residents again received a negative test result. So we continue to count our blessings that not a single resident has COVID-19.

As you know by reading my most recent letter, IDPH now requires Mercy Circle and other communities providing skilled nursing services to report 14 consecutive days without a new case of COVID-19 to consider easing restrictions. When we meet that benchmark, we can proceed with our plans, already approved, to schedule visits outside on our campus.

As soon as we receive the pending test results for other staff members, we will reset the start date to begin this long-anticipated countdown. We also comply with IDPH guidelines by sharing any additional positive test results with you.

I share your disappointment in not being able to open our campus this week to schedule outdoor visits with families. And I hope you will join me in valuing the benefits of being cautious as we strive to protect everyone in our community.

We always observe all protocols and practices directed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact me at 773-253-3627.