



July 3, 2020

Dear Residents, Family Members and Staff Members,

We hope to begin hosting outdoor visits with residents on Tuesday, July 7, because Mercy Circle has achieved 14 consecutive days without a new case of COVID-19 to meet the requirement of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

I use the word “hope” because we still are awaiting approvals from both the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health which will base their decisions on pending results for some staff members.

***Extensive testing continues***

The good news: For the last three weeks of testing, all residents in assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care continue to test negative.

As part of the current protocol for testing, we also are required to test all staff members every week until future notice. Last week, one staff member, who is recovering at home, tested positive. All others received negative results.

This coming week, we again will test all employees.

***Let's plan for your reunions***

In anticipation of spending time with residents this coming week, here is a reminder about our new approved system for all scheduled outdoor 30-minute visits to ensure more residents can spend time with their families.

Outdoor visits with assisted living and skilled nursing care residents are scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30am until 11:30am and from 1:30pm to 4pm. Independent living residents can visit with families during those same periods of time on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For our exclusive use, the Sisters of Mercy West Midwest are graciously opening their beautiful Courtyard, a screened patio located south of our building. All visitors should enter our campus from 99<sup>th</sup> Street, follow the road to the east and look for signage directing them to the Courtyard as well as parking and a screening station.

During our first phase of outdoor visits, only one visitor per resident is allowed to ensure all residents can spend time with someone. This system soon will expand to two visitors per resident.

All visitors must

- Email [lifenrichment@mercycircle.org](mailto:lifenrichment@mercycircle.org) to schedule their visiting time 48 hours in advance and be screened for symptoms of the virus during a telephone call 24 hours before a visit
- Be screened a second time before entering the Courtyard for a visit
- Wear a face mask
- Use hand sanitizer provided
- Observe six-foot social distancing including staying at the visiting station, set more than six feet apart, assigned to them

Our Life Enrichment team is scheduling planned activities for groups of 10 or fewer residents near their apartments and in the Illinois Room. Staff will disinfect these areas before and after every gathering. Of course, everyone is required to wear a face mask, observe six-foot social distancing and practice hand-hygiene.

Now, it is time for us to revitalize our sense of community life at Mercy Circle. I am grateful to everyone who has made it possible to abate the spread of COVID-19 at Mercy Circle.

We stay focused on our goal to balance our yearning for social connections with the safety and well-being of everyone in our community our priority. Please call me at 773-253-3627 so we can discuss any topic important to you.



Frances Lachowicz  
Executive Director