



July 10, 2020

Dear Residents, Family Members and Staff Members,

Last Friday, I shared with you encouraging news about how our community would start moving forward because we achieved three consecutive weeks when all residents in assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care continued to receive negative test results. Today, I update that heartening report that Mercy Circle residents have achieved a fourth consecutive week with no positive test results.

As you know, Mercy Circle's required protocol to test for COVID-19 is based on any new diagnosis for a resident or staff member. When we again are designated as virus-free, we can implement our plan to provide more opportunities for residents to enjoy our Mercy Circle community spirit and lifestyle.

Last Friday, I reported one positive result for a staff member tested on July 2. In accordance with the current protocol by both the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, we again tested all employees on Tuesday, July 7. Late yesterday, we received a report on the majority of those outcomes. Unfortunately, four employees, who are asymptomatic, received positive outcomes. All are now quarantined at home and recovering. We cannot identify a pattern because these individuals work in different departments and in various areas on our campus.

Our community's new status regarding COVID-19 now requires us to put on hold all visits with families and friends that just began on Tuesday. According to CDPH, if we have no new cases of the virus, the first possible day we can anticipate resuming outdoor visitations could be Tuesday, July 21. I promise to keep you informed.

I only can imagine how disheartening it is to hear this news and count on your resilient spirit to take advantage of what Mercy Circle can offer to reduce the time you spend alone.

Together, let's move forward

For all of these ways to socialize, please remember to wear a face mask, observe six-foot social distancing, and wash your hands before and after being outside and visiting with each other. And before you go outdoors on these blistering summer days, please stop at our Reception Desk to apply sunscreen and to pick-up a bottle of cold water to take with you...and be mindful how to limit your time outside.

We encourage you to

- Visit with each other in the beautiful enclosed Courtyard which the Sisters of Mercy opened exclusively for us

- Spend time in the shade sitting on the benches in front of our main entrance and on the patio
- Take a walk on our campus now bursting with Nature's bounty
- View daily Mass at 11am on our in-house TV Channel 8
- Participate in activities such as Jazzercise organized for groups of less than 10
- Have some fun playing Bingo in the Illinois room, in the assisted living hallways and in the skilled nursing care activity room
- Tune into Channel 8 for Tai Chi and Zumba classes and for tours of world-renowned destinations listed on weekly calendars
- Raise a toast to residents celebrating their birthday this month as we deliver a special meal—including birthday cake, of course, and your choice of beverages from our wine and spirits menu
- Ask Mary Kate Moriarty to arrange a virtual visit using one of our tech tools by calling her at 773-253-3613

For Sisters of Mercy who are independent living residents, we have secured permission from Trinity Senior Communities for you to spend time at one of the vacation homes in Michigan and Wisconsin...and *not be required* to spend 14 days in quarantine when you return. Before you head out, please stop at my office for a care package we have created for your vacation. And please remember to notify the Receptionist about your travel plans.

Assisted living residents, please call Janet Tucker at extension 3650 to let her know when you have a medically necessary appointment. And skilled nursing care residents, please inform Anita Ajayi, RN, at extension 3664 when you have a medical appointment.

Extensive testing continues

To comply with the current protocol for testing, we continue to test all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents as well as all staff members every week until future notice.

While we have achieved protecting our residents from COVID-19, we strive to repeat that success for our staff members. So let's work together to liberate everyone from the virus. Please call me at 773-253-3627 to talk about any topic important to you.

Very truly yours,



Frances Lachowicz
Executive Director