



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz *Frances Lachowicz*
DATE July 14, 2020
SUBJ 12-Hour Notice: Positive Test Results for Two Residents, One Employee

Since yesterday afternoon, we received all the results for COVID-19 tests which were administered on July 10 to residents in assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care and to all staff members. Two residents and one staff member tested positive for the virus. All three were quarantined immediately. All other residents and staff members who were tested have negative outcomes for the virus.

Both residents moved to an isolated area on the skilled nursing care floor. A team of our staff members, wearing full PPE, will care only for them. When these two residents have completed their required quarantine time and they are free of any signs and symptoms of the virus, they will return to their private suites. Our employee, who is recuperating at home, will return to work only after meeting all CDC standards. Please join us in respecting their privacy by observing all HIPAA regulations.

Following the recommendations of the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, our skilled nursing care wing on the third floor now is under droplet and contact precautions to help abate the spread of the virus.

All residents in this area are required to stay in their room and wear a mask when someone enters their residence. Staff members continue to wear appropriate PPE. Throughout this entire wing, our staff is implementing infection control and prevention measures.

During this period, all skilled nursing care residents are encouraged to attend daily Mass, to participate in activities and exercise classes, and to enjoy entertainment broadcast on Channel 8. Staff members have a variety of books, games and puzzles for residents to also enjoy in their rooms. And, if a family member would like to arrange a video chat with a resident, please call Mary Kate Moriarty at 773-253-3613.

According to CMS guidelines, we continue weekly tests for residents and staff members by using a nasal swab procedure. We also have suspended outdoor visits according to CMS guidelines.

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. For example, we monitor all residents and screen all employees to identify early signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to detect asymptomatic individuals who may carry the virus.

While we share your disappointment about our first two positive results for residents, we think it may have been inevitable that our Mercy Circle community would not be spared. We also are grateful that our employees, who had positive outcomes, are recovering or already have returned to work.

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