



July 31, 2020

Dear Residents, Family Members and Staff Members,

We are concluding the month of July with more encouraging news for our community. There are no new active cases of COVID-19 at Mercy Circle.

Since last Friday, the second resident, whose test outcome was pending, received a negative result and has no symptoms. All residents, who were tested following one other resident's positive test result, have tested negative. The employee, whom we reported as having a positive result, has recovered and returned to work according to CDC guidelines.

Our one resident, who did test positive, is being treated in the hospital. We also are waiting for the result of one staff member whose previous test was inconclusive.

***Join me in thanking Dr. McQuillan, new role for Dr. Lawler***

I am saddened to share the news that Dr. Moira McQuillan's resignation from OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center requires that she steps down as our medical director. Dr. McQuillan has cared for so many of our residents as a physician and served our community as medical director since Mercy Circle opened. When it is possible to do so, we will host a gathering so you can personally thank Dr. McQuillan for her excellent clinical leadership and wish her the very best in her new practice.

I am pleased to announce Dr. Charles Lawler, a current member of our team of physicians, will continue Mercy Circle's relationship with OSF Little Company of Mary and serve as our medical director starting on September 1. As many of you know, Dr. Lawler specializes in internal medicine and is a board-certified geriatrician.

***Heartened to see people enjoying outdoor visits***

We are delighted to see how assisted and independent living residents are taking advantage of the more clement weather and spending time in the beautiful Courtyard where we host outdoor visits with family members.

We also remind assisted living residents and their families to send an email to [LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org](mailto:LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org) to schedule outdoor visits on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and to schedule phone and video visits at mutually convenient times.

***Appreciate your prudence and patience***

This is a reminder to residents and their families about leaving campus for medical appointments: Assisted living residents must call Janet Tucker at extension 3650 and skilled nursing care residents, Anita Ajayi, RN, at extension 3664. Please limit any and all healthcare appointments only to those for essential care.

As the number of COVID-19 cases are increasing in Chicago and across new areas of Illinois, the Illinois Department of Public Health is conducting tests today for all assisted living and skilled nursing care residents and all staff members. These test results, along with our weekly test outcomes, will be used in the calculations to determine the positivity rate for the virus in Chicago.

We appreciate the gracious cooperation of residents and staff as you are required to take additional tests. Our collective hope is these extra measures help our City and State determine the ways to mitigate the recent spread of COVID-19.

Mercy Circle also continues to enforce for residents, employees, visitors and vendors Chicago's travel restriction orders that requires anyone who visits a State designated as a "hot spot" must self-quarantine for 14 days. Please do not travel to any of these destinations and alert your family to avoid doing so if they want to visit. Effective today, Wisconsin, Missouri, North Dakota and Nebraska increase the list to 22 States. [Click here to learn more.](#)

We are grateful to everyone at Mercy Circle who follows directives published by the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health.

- Always put on a face mask covering your nose and mouth before leaving your residence and wear your mask until you return
- Practice six-foot social distancing in all situations
- Wash your hands regularly and when leaving and returning to your home
- Avoid all non-essential outings and social gatherings

To protect residents in our skilled nursing care area, Mercy Circle remains on contact and droplet precautions. To help combat the effects of isolation, please encourage our residents to get involved in several activities we offer.

***Update on IDPH surveys***

During July, Illinois Department of Public Health inspectors and surveyors conducted two visits to our campus. After both visitations, they confirmed Mercy Circle is in full compliance with all Federal and State regulations related to infection prevention and control. Stated another way, Mercy Circle received no citations or deficiencies.

Please join me in praising our exceptional nursing and housekeeping teams for their thorough dedication to ensuring the safety of everyone at Mercy Circle.

Let's work together to protect each other from the virus. Please call me at 773-253-3627 to talk about any concerns or topic important to you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Lachowicz".

Frances Lachowicz  
Executive Director