




TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE August 4, 2020
SUBJ 12-Hour Notice: Positive Test Result for Two Residents, One Staff

When we received most of the results for the COVID-19 tests administered on Friday, July 31, we learned that two residents and one staff member tested positive for the virus. Previously, these individuals had negative test results.

Both residents are in isolation in our skilled nursing care wing, and our staff is following all CDC-designated precautions as they deliver care for them. Our staff member is recovering while quarantined at home. We also completed contact tracing. Please respect everyone's privacy by observing all HIPAA regulations.

Precautions for skilled nursing care residents

Following the recommendations of the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, our skilled nursing care wing on the third floor remains 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. On the third floor, our staff implements infection control and prevention measures.

During this period, all skilled nursing care residents are encouraged to watch Channel 8 where they can view daily Mass, participate in activities and exercise classes, and enjoy entertaining programs. We are offering books, games and puzzles so residents can enjoy time in their rooms. If a family member wants to arrange a video chat with a resident, please send an email to LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org.

We continue weekly tests for residents and staff members by using a nasal swab procedure. Until further notice, we have suspended outdoor visits.

Compliance with all guidelines and regulations

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. We faithfully 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.

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