



August 7, 2020

Dear Residents, Family Members and Staff Members,

Earlier this week, we reported three residents received positive results for COVID-19 for tests administered here by the Illinois Department of Public Health. All are now recovering in the area we have isolated in the skilled nursing care wing. Our staff is following all CDC-designated precautions as they deliver care for them. Please respect everyone's privacy by observing all HIPAA regulations.

We also received negative results for an additional 55 residents and 104 staff members who were tested by IDPH on July 31.

During this first week of August, we also completed Mercy Circle's regularly scheduled weekly testing. As of this morning, we have received negative results for 110 staff and five results still are pending for employees. We still are waiting for all test results for 54 residents, and will inform you about those outcomes if someone tests positive.

Every single day, we continue our practice of numerous protocols as we strive to mitigate the spread of the virus by following the directives of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as well as the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health. This week, we also hired a highly regarded specialty company that has completed a thorough electrostatic cleaning system that uses an EPA-approved COVID-19 disinfectant for the entire third floor.

At this time, Mercy Circle is

- Implementing contact and droplet precautions in our skilled nursing care area
- Helping combat the effects of isolation, especially for assisted living residents, who are quarantined until Saturday, August 15, when we hope to reinstate outdoor visits for them
- Monitoring all residents in our healthcare settings for symptoms
- Screening all employees at the beginning of and during each shift
- Enforcing the City of Chicago's travel restrictions to "hot spots" that require a 14-day quarantine upon return from 22 States and Puerto Rico
- Advocating that all residents only leave the campus for medically necessary appointments
  - Assisted living residents must call Janet Tucker at extension 3650
  - Skilled nursing care residents must call Anita Ajayi, RN, at extension 3664

- Encouraging residents to participate in activities and programs by watching Channel 8
- Assisting with planning both phone and video visits by contacting LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org

We also continue to adhere to our weekly testing plan for all staff members and for residents in our assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care wings.

As part of our collective resolve to do all we can to keep the virus at bay, remember to

- 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

We are grateful to everyone who has suggested ways to make our daily life at Mercy Circle both reassuring and gratifying.

Please call me at 773-253-3627 to talk about any concerns or topic important to you.

Very truly yours,



Frances Lachowicz  
Executive Director