




TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE August 8, 2020
SUBJ 12-Hour Notice: Positive Test Result for One Resident

Late on Friday, we received a positive result for the virus for one skilled nursing care resident who was tested on Wednesday, August 5, as part of Mercy Circle's weekly testing protocol. This resident moved to the skilled nursing care's isolation area staffed and equipped to care for residents who are recovering from COVID-19.

In addition, one test result we received today for an assisted living resident was inconclusive; so this resident has been retested. Today, we also learned the result for an employee who was tested on Monday, July 27. This individual, who tested positive on that day, has been off-campus for the last 12 days.

Please join us in observing all HIPAA regulations designed to protect the privacy of everyone at Mercy Circle.

We also have received 52 negative test results for other residents. All 110 employees have tested negative this past week.

Strictest mitigation strategy

Here are highlights of actions listed in my letter on Friday that Mercy Circle takes to protect residents and staff:

- Implementing contact and droplet precautions in our skilled nursing care area
- Asking assisted living residents to be quarantined until Saturday, August 15
- Monitoring all residents in our healthcare settings for symptoms
- Screening all employees at the beginning of and during each shift
- Advocating that all residents only leave the campus for medically necessary appointments
- Providing ways to combat the effects of isolation, especially for assisted living residents

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. ▼

I understand how concerning these recent findings are for all of us. It is so very important that we sustain our resolve to do our part in protecting each other.

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