



September 18, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Staff Members,

Today, two of our skilled nursing care residents received positive test results for COVID-19. One resident began presenting symptoms for the virus on Thursday so we conducted a test. The second positive test result was for a short-term stay resident, who was asymptomatic and already quarantined because that person was recently admitted here from the hospital.

In addition, two staff members, who are asymptomatic and now recovering at home, received positive test results today. One is a manager who works in all settings and the other, a nurse in skilled nursing care. Please honor the privacy of all these individuals by complying with all HIPAA guidelines.

***Mercy Circle returns to CMS Phase One***

With these outcomes for residents, Mercy Circle returns to CMS Phase One, the most restrictive status.

Starting today, skilled nursing care residents will be quarantined in their rooms for 14 days. Both residents who tested positive are isolated in their rooms and our staff wears appropriate PPE when caring for them. We also have implemented droplet and contact precautions as recommended by the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health. We will deliver all meals to these residents and our staff will encourage them to participate in televised activities and programs.

At 4:30pm today, Mercy Circle received results for most of the tests conducted during our regularly scheduled protocols for COVID-19 tests on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

- Fifty-nine skilled nursing care, assisted living and memory care residents were tested; two skilled nursing care residents received positive results and all other 57 residents had negative results
- Two of 109 staff members have tested positive; 102 employees received negative results and outcomes for five are still pending
- All 44 independent living residents received negative test results

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, this week's delay in receiving results is not a cause for alarm but due to the significant increase in the number of tests recently administered. When we receive the few remaining test results, we will notify the individuals and you if there are any positive results.

In compliance with current CMS guidelines based on the positivity rate of Chicago and Cook County, Mercy Circle will continue weekly tests for all employees and assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents, and monthly for independent living residents.

***Amenities and programs open for most residents***

We encourage independent living residents to continue gatherings for supper in their dining room, and taking advantage of carry-out options also available. Memory care residents continue to eat all three meals together in their dining room. We have put on hold moving forward with the communal dining program for assisted living residents.

All dining areas are rearranged for social distancing. Staff members wear masks at all times and sanitize tables between each seating. Residents also wear masks until they are seated and when interacting with servers.

Independent and assisted living as well as memory care residents can join weekly activities as well as Word and Communion services offered in their area of our community.

Also, we encourage taking advantage of these days of sunshine and comfortable temperatures by strolling through our beautiful campus or sitting on the benches at the main entrance, on the patio or in the Courtyard.

***Outdoor visitations plan changes for all skilled care residents***

All visitations for residents in skilled nursing care are cancelled for the next two weeks. Independent and assisted living as well as memory care residents still can schedule outdoor visits on campus. Please see the visitor guidelines at the top of this website page.

We appreciate your compliance as we temporarily reinstitute restrictions to ensure the safety of all residents. Please be confident that we continue to finalize plans for more ways to safely reopen additional areas of Mercy Circle when the time is right to do so. Please call me at 773-253-3627 to discuss your questions and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Frances Lachowicz  
Executive Director