



September 25, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Staff Members,

We are grateful to report that our two skilled nursing care residents, who last week received positive test results for COVID-19, are recovering in our isolation unit. Our staff wears appropriate PPE when caring for them. Two staff members, who tested positive, remain at home recovering. Also, all test results reported last Friday as pending were negative.

Mercy Circle remains in CMS Phase One

At this point, Mercy Circle adheres to the strictest protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. For the second of two weeks, skilled nursing care residents are quarantined in their rooms. We continue with droplet and contact precautions as recommended by the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health. We deliver all meals to these residents. And our staff encourages them to participate in virtual visits, televised activities and programs.

With our current status, independent and assisted living residents can plan outdoor visits. To ensure we comply with all CMS requirements, send your request to LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org or call Sandy Urbaniak at 773-253-3622. Please remind your visitors to review the “Visitor Guidelines” posted at the top of our messages on our website. It’s essential that anyone who experiences symptoms after leaving a visit inform Mercy Circle.

COVID-19 test results determine next CMS phase

If outcomes for all tests taken during the week of September 28 are negative, Mercy Circle can move to CMS Phase Two. With this progress, skilled nursing care residents can join limited small group activities and communal dining and schedule outdoor visitations.

With Cook County’s 5.4 percent positivity rate, Mercy Circle is required to conduct weekly testing for residents living in our healthcare wing and for all staff members. We have scheduled another round of tests for both residents and employees for next week.

On September 21 and 22, we administered tests to

- 57 residents and all received negative results
- 107 employees and have received negative results for 98 and await those for another nine

Dining rooms open for more residents

We are delighted to see so many independent living residents enjoy each other’s company over a meal in their dining room. The dining room offers a choice of seating times of either 4 until 5pm or 5:30 until 6:30pm so we can observe all basic safety protocols for diners.

Independent living residents still can opt for carry-out meals for lunch in the Bistro or for dinner in the dining room. Memory care residents continue to dine together for all three meals.

This weekend, assisted living residents will receive a memo regarding the new dining room seating times with the option to select which seating group they desire. Residents will then be assigned their seating group based on their choice

and availability and are asked to follow the selected seating times. The dining room will open on Tuesday, September 29, for assisted living residents.

Seating time choices are as follows:

	Seating A	Seating B
Breakfast	7:30am	9:00am
Lunch	11:30am	1:00pm
Dinner	4:30pm	5:30pm

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 residents to enjoy these days of sunshine and comfortable temperatures by walking around our beautiful campus or sitting on the benches at the main entrance, on the patio or in the Courtyard.

Mercy Day reminds of our heritage

On September 24, our community joined Mercy sponsored organizations to celebrate the founding of the Sisters of Mercy. Residents participated in prayer services in our Chapel which was broadcast on Channel 7. Our Dining Team served a delicious luncheon. Residents and staff members were treated to Mother Butter's Chicago mix of popcorn. And Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School students delivered plants to residents who taught at their school.

Please call me at 773-253-3627 to discuss your questions and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Frances Lachowicz
Executive Director