



October 2, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Staff Members,

This past Monday, Mercy Circle progressed to CMS Phase Two, making it possible to open more amenities and programs. Even with our new status, all residents are limited to outdoor visits so we added a heater to the enclosed areas of the Courtyard.

Since two skilled nursing care residents received positive results 14 days ago, we have conducted two rounds of testing—all with negative results for all residents on the unit. So we lifted some precautions including quarantine and these residents are enjoying small group activities and communal dining and residents can visit outdoors with their families.

Both skilled nursing care residents, who tested positive two weeks ago, have recovered. One went home after a successful short-term stay, and our permanent resident returned to that person's suite. Both staff members, who tested positive two weeks ago, have recovered and returned to work in accordance with CDC regulations.

To ensure we comply with all CMS requirements, please send visitation requests to LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org or call Sandy Urbaniak at 773-253-3622. Also, review the updated "Visitor Guidelines" posted at the top of this page on our website.

Testing continues

On Monday, September 28, we tested 107 employees and all assisted living and skilled nursing care residents. All residents received a negative result. Two employees, who received positive results, are at home. We still await results for seven staff members.

In compliance with the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, we continue weekly testing for all staff members and for all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents.

Communal gatherings

We are very pleased with how all residents and dining staff members are working together to ensure everyone follows all the precautions important to abating the spread of COVID-19...and still enjoying more time together over delicious meals.

Independent and assisted living as well as memory care residents are participating in a variety of activities as well as Word and Communion services offered in their area of our community.

Indoor visits

If there are no new cases of the virus among residents for the next 14 days, Mercy Circle will move to CMS Phase Three when we can schedule indoor visitations with all residents. We again are grateful to the Sisters of Mercy for lending us the Wisconsin Room so we can accommodate several residents and their guests in a comfortable setting with a view of the beautiful West Midwest grounds.

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

Sincerely,



Frances Lachowicz
Executive Director