




TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE October 4, 2020
SUBJ 12-Hour Notice: Positive Test Results for One Staff Member

On Saturday afternoon, October 3, we received the test results for the seven employees whose results were pending. Six received negative outcomes.

One staff member, who works in the dining rooms for independent and assisted living residents, tested positive. This employee, whose last day on our campus was Friday, October 2, is now recovering at home. Please observe HIPAA regulations that protect the privacy of this individual and everyone at Mercy Circle.

Mercy Circle still retains its status as a CMS Phase Two community, which only changes when a resident tests positive for the virus. All the activities and amenities that reopened on Monday, September 28, remain in place. Outdoor visitations for all residents continue so please refer to the guidelines posted on our website.

Compliance with all guidelines and regulations

On Monday, October 5, we again will conduct weekly testing for all residents who live in our healthcare settings. Last week, all received negative test results. On Monday and Tuesday, we will test all employees on our campus. Our rigorous testing schedule meets all requirements of the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health.

This weekend, information provided by our City and State health agencies indicate Illinois reports more than 300,000 cases of the virus since the pandemic reached our State. Our positivity rate for COVID-19, however, remains steady at close to 3.3 percent, well under a rate for changing any current protocols. These two facts motivate us to make sure all of us are steadfast in exercising caution and following all precautions that protect our residents, staff members and visitors.

We 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.

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