



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

Two residents, who participated in our campus-wide courtesy testing conducted by the Chicago Department of Public Health on Friday, October 9, received positive results for COVID-19 on Sunday. We still await some reports for last Friday's tests.

Both residents—one person in independent living and one in assisted living—are asymptomatic and quarantined in their apartments. On Sunday, we immediately began the contact-tracing process for each resident. Please join us in observing all HIPAA regulations designed to protect the privacy of everyone at Mercy Circle.

Mercy Circle returns to CMS Phase One

For these two areas of our community, this outcome requires Mercy Circle to return to CMS Phase One, which requires the strictest mitigation protocols for 14 days through Friday, October 23. If there are no new occurrences of the virus among residents during this 14-day period, Mercy Circle can progress to CMS Phase Two and resume communal activities and programs as well as visitations.

At this time, we are protecting assisted living residents by

- Instituting droplet and contact precautions
- Monitoring residents daily for symptoms
- Delivering meals to residents' apartments while communal dining is paused
- Suspending all outdoor visitations
- Broadcasting all activities and programs on Channel 8 and cancelling all small group gatherings

For independent living residents, we are

- Checking-in daily to screen for symptoms
- Delivering meals to residents' apartments while communal dining is paused
- Suspending all outdoor visitations
- Broadcasting all activities and programs on Channel 8 and cancelling all small group gatherings

We encourage skilled nursing care residents, all of whom are currently virus-free, to continue with their daily activities and programs including outdoor family visits.

Compliance with all guidelines and regulations

To comply with all regulations published by the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, we continue to test weekly all residents who live in our healthcare settings and all employees who work on our campus. As already planned for this week, however, Mercy Circle will administer tests for the virus for *all* residents today and for *all* staff members both today and on Tuesday, October 13.

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.

While we are disheartened by this situation, we are grateful both residents are safe in their apartments and appreciate your cooperation by adhering to all the precautions designed to protect both residents and staff members. Together, we will encourage each other to find a source of resilience as we navigate this unprecedented challenge.

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