



October 16, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Staff Members,

All 102 independent living, assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents, who were tested for COVID-19 on Monday, October 12, received negative results. As of this morning, 96 of the 105 employees tested earlier this week also received negative outcomes and results for nine are pending.

With these outcomes and the assumption that there are no new cases among residents during the next few days, Mercy Circle will advance to CMS Phase Three, the highest ranking. On Wednesday, October 14, skilled nursing care residents resumed their communal dining, small group activities and a weekly prayer service with Communion.

In compliance with Chicago Department of Public Health guidelines, we must ask assisted living residents to stay in their apartments while their wing remains on droplet and contact precautions until Friday, October 23. Until then, our Life Enrichment team will distribute books, games and puzzles and encourage residents to watch a variety of programs on Channel 8.

I am pleased to report both the independent and assisted living residents, who tested positive for the virus, are recovering in their apartments. Please honor their privacy by observing all HIPAA regulations.

Outdoor and indoor visitations

To ensure all residents can welcome guests and Mercy Circle safely accommodates everyone, we ask you to start planning one indoor visit a week. To facilitate planning, please call 48 hours in advance to make reservations. During the next few weeks as we learn how our indoor meeting space meets the demand, feel free to ask if there is any availability for more than a weekly visit.

Please review Mercy Circle's guidelines for both outdoor and indoor visits on our website. They detail how to schedule visits as well as directions for parking and looking for wayfinding signage.

Beginning on Wednesday, October 21—and continuing from 1 until 4pm on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays—residents and their guests can visit in the Wisconsin Room which is now set-up with socially distanced stations. Assisted living residents' indoor visitation program will begin on Friday, October 23.

On beautiful days, we encourage residents and their families to continue to visit outside in the heated Courtyard when it is comfortable for you to do so.

Testing continues

This week, we learned residents and employees, who were waiting for test results administered by Mercy Circle on October 5 and 6 and by the Chicago Department of Public Health on Friday, October 9, were negative.

In compliance with the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, we will conduct testing for all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents on Monday, October 19. Mercy Circle also will test all staff members on Monday and Tuesday. Independent living residents, who now are tested monthly, will be tested again in November on a date to be determined.

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

Sincerely,



Frances Lachowicz
Executive Director