



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz *Frances Lachowicz*
DATE November 14, 2020
SUBJ 12-Hour Notice: Positive Test Results for Two Residents

This morning, we learned two independent living residents, who were tested here on Wednesday, November 11, received positive results for COVID-19. Both are asymptomatic and recovering as they quarantine in their apartments. Also, our lab confirmed that all other 41 independent living residents, also tested on Wednesday, have negative outcomes. Please comply with all HIPAA regulations designed to protect their privacy.

As an added precaution, we will test all independent living residents again today and administer a second test for them on Tuesday, November 17.

Mercy Circle increases precautions for independent living residents

For their safety as well as everyone in our community, we urge all independent living residents to reconsider any and all plans for leaving our campus this weekend—even before Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s 30-day stay-at-home advisory takes effect on Monday, November 16.

Until Mercy Circle receives all results for tests conducted on Tuesday, November 17, we ask residents to stay in their apartments to avoid social interaction for the next few days.

Effective today, Mercy Circle has temporarily suspended some of the amenities and services for independent living residents while the virus continues to surge in our immediate area, around the City of Chicago and across the State of Illinois.

- The Dining Room only will be open for carry-out meals
- The Bistro offers carry-out only for breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday
- Any gathering is limited to 10 people

Compliance with all guidelines and regulations

Starting the week of November 16, Mercy Circle is required to test all employees twice a week because Cook County’s positivity rate spiked to 13.4 percent on Wednesday, November 11. Mercy Circle also will test all residents in our healthcare setting on Monday, November 16, to comply with all regulations published by the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health.

Mercy Circle faithfully follows 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 carefully 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.

We appreciate your cooperation by adhering to all the precautions we have instituted to protect both residents and staff members. Let us encourage each other to tap our spirit of resilience as we face this unprecedented challenge.

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