



November 20, 2020

Dear Residents, Families and Staff Members,

Today, we have no new cases of COVID-19 among residents and staff members to report. All 57 assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents who were tested on Monday, November 16, received negative outcomes.

We still await some results for 106 staff members who were tested on Monday and Tuesday, but we have received 73 results which are negative. As you may know, all employees now are tested twice a week, with the second round of tests administered on Thursday and Friday. We also hope to receive soon results for 41 independent living residents who volunteered to be tested on November 19.

I am very pleased to report that the two independent living residents, who tested positive earlier this month, have recovered and their quarantine ends on Saturday, November 21.

Finding gratitude during this time

We hope all residents chose to celebrate this Thanksgiving holiday here at Mercy Circle next Thursday.

- On Wednesday, November 25, a special prayer service will be broadcast on Channel 8 at 10:00 am and 3:00 p.m. Ministers will bring Communion to all residents in our community.
- Our Dining Services team has planned a special menu of delicious traditional favorites that will be delivered to every resident's apartment between 11:30am and 1:00pm on Thursday, November 26.
- Starting today, we encourage everyone to ask for assistance with planning virtual visits which can be set-up in advance for a certain time. Residents and family members should send their requests to LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org.

If you are an independent living resident who celebrates Thanksgiving elsewhere or you are a resident in any level of living who leaves our campus for an essential appointment, please contact our Director of Nursing Anita Ajayi, RN at 773-253-3664. She will determine if you should be quarantined upon your return—even if you only are away for an hour.

Applying Tier 3 stay-at-home advisory for our daily life

We continue to encourage all residents, including independent living residents who do not live in a licensed area of our community, to closely follow the practices we have instituted—effective today—now that Governor JB Pritzker’s Tier 3 stay-at-home advisory is in place.

For all residents, Mercy Circle

- Cancelled temporarily all outdoor and indoor visits
- Added more programs to Channel 8
- Closed the Salon
- Published an updated activities calendar to comply with Tier 3 guidelines
- Continues to offer some small group activities now limited to six or fewer people, with social distancing and other precautions, organized by our Life Enrichment team
- Delivers all meals to residents’ apartments or rooms
- Provides other programs and services that remain the same

Making choices to make a difference

This afternoon, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 13,012 new confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases—including 2,334 cases in Chicago.

While the positivity rates for the entire City of Chicago still present grave concerns, there is no reason to lessen our collective resolve to do the very best to protect everyone important to us from the virus.

The City’s most recent report, published on November 14, confirms the positivity rates most important to our community

- Our zip code, 60655, which had spiked to 24.2 percent, from 19.8 percent seven days earlier
- The 60643 zip code increased to 11.25 percent, up from 9.8 percent the week prior

Thank you for following our precautions to abate the virus’ spread that include

- Wearing a face mask that covers your nose and mouth
- Practicing six-foot social distancing in all situations
- Washing your hands regularly with soap or sanitizer at numerous stations
- Avoiding all non-essential outings and social gatherings

Please be confident that Mercy Circle

- Strives to combat the effects of isolation for all residents
- Monitors all residents who live in our healthcare settings for symptoms
- Screens all employees at the beginning of and during each shift

- Enforces the City of Chicago's travel restrictions to "hot spots" that now require a 14-day quarantine upon return from most States and Territories
- Advocates that all residents only leave the campus when medically necessary
 - Assisted living residents must call Janet Tucker at extension 3650
 - Skilled nursing care residents call Anita Ajayi, RN, at extension 3664
- Applies all prescreening practices for all healthcare professionals and other essential visitors who enter the building
- Restricts all indoor visits by residents' family and friends as well as volunteers and other non-essential healthcare professionals

Still time to register for emails

We appreciate how so many people have enrolled to receive this and other information via email. To be added, please send your request to Communications@MercyCircle.org and write "Add my name" in the subject line.

I exhort you to be extra careful not only for yourself but also for each other. Please call me at 773-253-3627 with your questions and suggestions.

Wishing you and everyone important to you Thanksgiving blessings,



Frances Lachowicz
Executive Director