



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz *Frances Lachowicz*
DATE December 8, 2020
SUBJ UPDATE: One Staff Member Tests Positive for COVID-19

On Monday evening, our lab notified Mercy Circle that a CNA, who last cared for skilled nursing care residents on Sunday, December 6, received a positive result for an individual test taken here on Wednesday, December 2. This staff member is isolated at home while recovering from the virus, and will return to work in accordance with CDC guidelines. Please respect this person's privacy by observing all HIPAA guidelines.

For extra protection for residents in our skilled nursing care unit, we have applied droplet and contact isolation precautions that will continue through Friday, December 11.

According to our current plan for all staff members, 102 were tested on Monday and Tuesday, November 30 and December 1. We already reported that one person had tested positive, and now can confirm 101 received negative outcomes for their tests. All results were negative for the 103 employees tested last Thursday and Friday.

I am pleased to report that all skilled nursing care, memory care, assisted living and independent living residents tested last week received negative results for the virus.

Surge in cases mounts

Illinois is ranked among the top five States with the most cases since the pandemic began, according to the CDC. On Monday, December 7, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 8,691 new confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19, up from 7,598 cases reported on Sunday, December 6.

Also on Sunday, the City of Chicago reported a 13.4 percent positivity rate, up from 11.4 percent seven days earlier. The most recent report for the positivity rate for our zip code, 60655, was posted at 15.2 percent on Saturday, November 28, down from 17.8 percent seven days prior.

More than one million new cases of COVID-19 were reported across the United States during the first five days of December, according to Johns Hopkins University. Although this increase is part of the anticipated "second surge," cases most likely transmitted during the Thanksgiving holidays have not yet been detected.

Please call me at 773-253-3627 with your concerns, suggestions or questions.