



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz *Frances Lachowicz*
DATE December 15, 2020
SUBJ UPDATE: One Full-Time Employee Tests Positive for COVID-19

Late on Monday, Mercy Circle learned one housekeeper, who worked yesterday in our assisted living area, received a positive result for a test taken here on Friday, December 11. This staff member, who is asymptomatic, immediately went home to recuperate from the virus, and only will return to work in accordance with CDC guidelines. Please respect this person's privacy by observing all HIPAA guidelines.

So far, this is the only positive outcome for 101 employees' second round of testing conducted on Thursday and Friday last week. To date for this second weekly series of tests, Mercy Circle has received 90 results, including 89 negative reports, and still await another 11.

Last week, all residents in skilled nursing care, memory care and assisted living, who were tested, received negative results for COVID-19.

This week, residents in our independent living wing were tested today, December 15, and those in our healthcare settings will be tested on Wednesday, December 16. We continue with our established schedule of testing staff members twice a week, once on Monday or Tuesday and a second time on Thursday or Friday.

COVID-19 cases set new worldwide record

Today, media announced our country's national death toll of 301,438 people due to COVID-19, surpassing all records and placing the United States as the country with the most fatalities. Also, today the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 7,359 new confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19, up slightly from 7,214 reported yesterday.

Please be prudent about protecting yourself and others by faithfully following all the basic precautions—wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth; observing six-foot social distancing; practicing hand hygiene; and checking with our Director of Nursing about self-quarantining after visiting an area designated by the City of Chicago as a hot spot or leaving our campus.

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