



January 1, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Staff Members,

Our hope is that this new decade delivers many reasons to anticipate and ultimately realize our liberation from the power of COVID-19.

- Today, Mercy Circle has no active cases of the virus in our community, and no one is in quarantine or recuperating at home.
- As a senior living community, we are grateful that our residents and staff members qualified to be among the first to receive a vaccine. Ninety-nine percent of our residents and 80 percent of our employees have registered.

For our first clinic day on Saturday, January 2, between 11am and 5pm, CVS recently confirmed a team of five professionals will administer the Moderna, not Pfizer-BioNTech, vaccine to skilled care nursing residents in their suites. Assisted and independent living residents as well as employees will be inoculated at their designated times in the Illinois Room. Please wear a top with short sleeves to expedite this process.

Here's a summary of CVS' plan for this Saturday

- Participants start at the CVS registration table to review their completed consent form and to respond to a screening protocol
- A member of the CVS team will
 - Inject the vaccine in each person's upper arm
 - Monitor each person for 15 minutes to identify if someone has an adverse reaction to the vaccine and take the appropriate action
 - Give each person a factsheet about the Moderna vaccine

As soon as I have them, I will confirm the details of CVS' second clinic day here this month to administer the second dose of Moderna to all who participated in this weekend's clinic as well as the first dose to any new residents and employees.

Due to our staffing needs to assist with Saturday's clinic day, we will not offer virtual and vestibule visits this Saturday. They will resume between 1pm and 4pm on Wednesday, January 6. We appreciate your understanding.

To celebrate Chicago-style, residents are invited to select their favorite pizza from Fox's menu. Orders will be delivered to assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents; independent living residents should pick-up their choice in the main dining room.

Test results, number of new cases increases

During the past week, we tested

- 96 staff members on December 28 and 29; all received negative results
- 87 staff members on December 30 and 31; outcomes already received are negative, others are pending
- 57 assisted living and skilled nursing care residents on Wednesday, December 30; all results are pending

Remain true to practicing safety precautions

Even with the first dosage of Moderna administered to residents and employees, we must faithfully adhere to all the basic precautions with masks, social distancing and hand-hygiene.

For the last day of 2020, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 8,009 new and probable cases of COVID-19—the most reported for a single day during the last two weeks. This upward trend also accounts to a four-day increase by almost a full percentage point for Illinois' positivity rate now at 7.7 percent.

Another major reason for concern is the fact that 4,234 deaths were attributed to COVID-19 during the month of December, accounting for almost one-fourth of all deaths in our State since the pandemic reached Illinois.

A new decade of hope

As they said *adieu* to 2020 on New Year's Eve, residents shared their 2021 resolutions with members of our Life Enrichment team, who taped their messages while serving holiday refreshments. Tune into Channel 8 today to be inspired by what your neighbors shared about their aspirations for the New Year.

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

Happy New Year!



Frances Lachowicz
Executive Director