



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz *Frances Lachowicz*
DATE January 12, 2021
SUBJ One Staff Member Tested Positive for COVID-19

Yesterday and today, we already have tested 90 staff members and the rest of our employees will complete this process before late this afternoon. We continue to use our rapid testing system to expedite results as a way to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

One CNA, who was asymptomatic when working on the first shift caring for skilled nursing care residents on Monday, January 11, received a positive result for a COVID-19 test taken here. Upon being informed of this outcome, our employee immediately left Mercy Circle to recover from the virus at home, and only will return to work in accordance with CDC standards. Please honor all HIPAA regulations to protect this person's privacy as well as that of anyone who is coping with a healthcare challenge.

In an abundance of caution, residents with whom this CNA had contact on Monday are temporarily quarantined and being monitored for signs and symptoms of the virus.

On Wednesday, all residents in our healthcare settings will be tested as part of our current mandate from the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health. And again on Thursday and Friday, all employees will receive their required second weekly test.

Please continue to follow all precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 that include 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 for any reason.

In Illinois, number of COVID-19 cases surge again

Compared with Monday's report of 4,776 new cases of COVID-19, the Illinois Department of Public Health today announced a surge to 6,642 new and probable cases of COVID-19. While we have taken the first step in preparing to lift restrictions with our successful first clinic day on January 2, we must remember Illinois remains in Tier 3 and the mounting number of cases nationwide indicate caution should guide all our decisions and actions.

Will you please call me at 773-253-3627 so we can discuss your concerns, questions and suggestions? Your insights are helpful as we begin to plan what might be residents' priorities to consider as part of enhancing our daily life at Mercy Circle.