



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE February 2, 2021
SUBJ One Staff Member Tested Positive for COVID-19

On Monday, one server who was working in our dining room for independent living residents, tested positive for COVID-19. This staff member, who is asymptomatic, immediately went home to self-quarantine and recover, 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.

Because Mercy Circle uses Point of Care rapid tests for our regularly scheduled tests for all employees, we have test outcomes in approximately 15 minutes. Using this system helps us mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by identifying very quickly a person, especially someone who is asymptomatic, who has contracted the virus.

Please follow all precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. They include wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth; observing six-foot social distancing; practicing hand-hygiene; 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; asking to be tested if you begin to experience symptoms associated with the virus or learn you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

We are making progress

As you know from the news, the number of new cases of COVID-19 across Illinois and in Chicago continues to decrease. So Governor JB Pritzker and Mayor Lori Lightfoot have begun to lift restrictions they put in place on November 22, 2020.

Currently, we are working with the Chicago Department of Public Health to review Mercy Circle's plan to reopen more places and to add more ways to enjoy being part of our community and visiting with family and friends. I will share our specific plan with you in my letter this Friday.

On Monday, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 2,312 new and probable cases of COVID-19. Over the weekend, 5,773 cases were reported.

Will you please call me at 773-253-3627 so we can discuss your concerns, questions and suggestions? Your ideas and insights about some of the residents' priorities can help guide our planning process for enhancing our daily life at Mercy Circle.