



February 26, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Staff Members,

In addition to reopening more places and programs at Mercy Circle, we have planned some special events for all residents and staff members to celebrate milestones for our community.

- On Tuesday, March 2, starting at 2pm in the Illinois and Iowa Rooms, a 1950s Happy Days theme-party with mini-burgers, hot dogs, fries and root beer floats is a perfect way to thank everyone for their wholehearted participation in our vaccination program
- On Friday, March 5, starting at 1pm, the fun continues when we honor all our employees whose talents, professionalism and work ethic placed Mercy Circle in the *Chicago Tribune's* annual survey of the 100 Top Workplaces

### ***Our third and final clinic this Saturday***


On Saturday, February 27, starting at 11am, a CVS team will administer the second dose of Moderna to 24 residents and staff members; four employees and two residents receive their first dose.

We are very grateful to the 108 residents, 70 staff members and 36 third-party providers who have armed themselves with both doses. And look forward to increasing that cohort with our final clinic. We also appreciate the essential role CVS has played in protecting everyone in our community.

### ***Test results set the pace***

Mercy Circle remains in CMS's Phase 2 and will soon advance to Phase 3 if we remain free of COVID-19. All 101 staff members and 56 residents who were tested for the virus this week received negative results. In March, residents in healthcare settings only will be tested monthly and employees still follow our weekly protocol.

Barb Clarke has returned to Mercy Circle and opened our beauty shop for skilled nursing care residents on Mondays, for assisted living and memory care residents on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and for independent living residents on Saturdays. In addition to the wonderful way Barb makes residents feel once they've sat in her chair, we value her friendship and humor which she has shared with the Sisters of Mercy for 15 years.

As many as 12 residents and their guests can plan in-person 2-hour visits from 1pm until 4pm on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays in the Wisconsin Room. If someone cannot visit during our regularly scheduled hours, please ask about making other plans. For all visits, contact [LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org](mailto:LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org) to confirm a time. Before each visit because they can change, guests should review the *Visitor Guidelines* and *COVID-19 Precautions* posted on our website. 

Every visitor is required to conform with all guidelines and our screening process. For those who live far away or prefer to wait for better weather, please arrange virtual visits by sending a note to our email to schedule a virtual visit.

Mercy Chapel is filled with spirit as independent living residents gather for liturgies at 11am on Tuesdays and 4pm on Saturdays. Others can participate by watching on Channel 1 or 7, which now benefit from our recently upgraded system.

On Wednesdays, residents are invited to attend the Spiritual Seekers presentation as part of their Lenten program in the Agatha O'Brien Room. On Fridays, Avis Clendenen helps us reflect on the meaning of Lent with a Contemporary Stations of the Cross. Once a week, all residents can receive Communion as Avis visits throughout our community; please check your calendars for the date and time for you and your neighbors.

### ***Mercy Circle complies with all precautions***

Even with the majority of our community fully vaccinated, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services direct us to remain faithful to taking all precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

In addition to the basic precautions to mitigate the spread of the virus for anyone who lives, works or visits Mercy Circle, residents protect themselves and others by

- Avoiding unnecessary trips by asking Paul May, 312-307-9043, and Marge Everett, extension 3603, to assist with online ordering and picking up items from pharmacies, grocery stores and retailers
- Contacting our Director of Nursing Anita Ajayi, RN, at 773-253-3664 for guidance on self-quarantining even if only leaving our campus for a brief time or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19

New residents quarantine in their apartments for 14 days after moving in.

I recently learned the etymology of the word "Lent" which is derived from the Old English word, "lencten," that means "spring season." And "Lenten" means "to lengthen," which refers to an increase in sunlight as we anticipate a very-long awaited spring. Inside Mercy Circle, I already can see our sunshine increasing as residents safely enjoy spending time together.

Please call me at 773-253-3627 when you have questions and suggestions.

Wishing you a blessed Lenten journey.

Sincerely,



Frances Lachowicz  
Executive Director