



April 9, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Staff Members,

We conclude our week filled with dismay with much better news than I shared on Monday. Since then, our Director of Nursing Anita Ajayi, RN and I have dedicated ourselves to advocating with the Illinois Department of Public Health. We value your concerns. We presented them along with our own professional perspectives to IDPH decision-makers. In all our discussions, we kept the spotlight on our shared message about the critical importance of balancing the negative impact of being quarantined with sustaining the well-being of residents who are fully vaccinated.

This afternoon, IDPH responded by modifying its guidelines that require residents to quarantine when there is a new case of COVID-19 in their area. Of course, lifting some of the restrictions Mercy Circle was required to put in place this week still requires everyone to observe all best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Effective immediately, all assisted living residents can return to several aspects of the daily lifestyle they had been enjoying. Once again, they can enjoy meals together in their dining room, participate in small group activities and leave their apartments to visit with each other and take a walk.

IDPH, however, still requires two restrictions we must follow. All assisted living residents must stay inside their part of our building, and they cannot spend time with guests here until Monday, April 19. Then, assisted living residents also will be able to leave their area of Mercy Circle to attend Mass, schedule an appointment for the beauty salon, plan indoor visits and enjoy the beauty of our campus.

We ask families and friends to stay connected with assisted living residents by contacting LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org to schedule compassionate care and/or virtual visits. Also, please review *Visitor Guidelines* and *COVID-19 Precautions* posted on our website.

Please call me at 773-253-3627 so we can discuss your concerns, questions and suggestions, or simply to share your disappointment about what it takes to adhere to the best practices to benefit everyone at Mercy Circle. We appreciate your candor and caring ways.

Together, we still will count the days until April 19...but with a lighter heart!

Frances Lachowicz, Executive Director