



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE May 9, 2021
SUBJ One Staff Member Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

This morning, we were contacted by a full-time member of our dining services team, who arranged to be tested at a place other than Mercy Circle and received a positive outcome for COVID-19. This individual decided to be tested over the weekend due to recent contact with someone who subsequently tested positive for the virus. Our staff member, who remains asymptomatic and has no direct contact with residents, is recovering at home and will return to work in compliance with CDC regulations. Please honor this person's privacy by following all HIPAA rules.

Because our colleague took immediate, thoughtful action, we were able to test all residents and staff members here on Sunday. I am very pleased to report everyone—including 43 independent living, 28 assisted living, eight memory care and 23 rehab and skilled nursing care residents along with 40 employees—tested negative.

The most recent guidelines issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health require us to continue testing everyone until we can report 14 consecutive days with no positive outcomes. On Tuesday, we will announce the testing schedule for this week. When we receive them, I will send a brief update about these test results.

With universally negative test results on Sunday, Mercy Circle residents can continue to enjoy communal dining, small group activities, liturgies in the Chapel and indoor visits. Please ask your guests to review our current *Visitors Guidelines*.

We have not relaxed precautions and infection control practices even as we reopen our community, and we urge you to remain vigilant about your own daily practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. At this time, however, we will not move forward with our plans to fully reopen the dining rooms and Chapel until our community achieves 14 consecutive days with no new cases of the virus.

At Mercy Circle, we can find some comfort in the knowledge that an increasing number of our employees as well as new residents are being vaccinated.

As we revitalize our community's *Life with Spirit*, we appreciate your patience with this minor disruption in our plan to further reopen more places and programs. Please call me at 773-253-3627 at any time.