



May 28, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Staff Members,

As we anticipate a lovely three-day weekend, I wanted to share our progress report on the great strides our community continues to make.

We are so proud that 100 percent of our permanent residents and 99 percent of our short-term stay rehab residents are fully vaccinated. And with 85 percent of our staff members fully vaccinated, Mercy Circle significantly exceeds the nationwide average of only 50 percent of vaccinated employees in senior living communities.

Our collective commitment to each other's well-being is a testament to the true spirit of our community. We appreciate how residents and staff continue to wear masks when they are in common areas.

### ***Life with Spirit thrives at Mercy Circle***

Residents welcome visitors into their apartment or suite—now seven days a week between 10am and 7pm. Please call 773-253-3600 to schedule a visit. Also before visiting, review Mercy Circle's current *Visitor Guidelines* posted on our website.

As weather improves, more people are opting to visit in our courtyard and on our patio. Residents also are getting together for fun and special events in activities rooms in their area and outdoors. Entertainers and musicians are performing here and beloved therapy pets are visiting again.

Dining rooms and the Bistro, where weekly specials are featured, now are set for regular seatings. The private dining room can be reserved for large groups of residents. And carry-out services remain available.

Everyone now is worshipping in the Chapel. Many are taking advantage of the services of our beauty shop, as well as enjoying outings and shopping trips. Contact [LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org](mailto:LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org) so families and friends can plan virtual visits they now enjoy with residents.

### ***Monitoring continues***

Results were negative for all residents and employees tested since one case of COVID-19 on our campus was reported on May 10. The staff member has fully recovered and returned to work in compliance with CDC standards.



Currently, we only are testing unvaccinated staff members every other week and new employees, no matter their vaccination status, when they start.

New residents are tested when they are admitted. If there is an unvaccinated resident, that person will be tested monthly. We only will publish a report if someone has a positive result.

Of course, Mercy Circle immediately will conduct testing if a resident or staff member has symptoms or comes in contact with someone who has COVID-19. And if there is a new occurrence of the virus on our campus, we will test everyone who has been exposed.

In addition to faithfully monitoring residents in our healthcare setting, Mercy Circle continues to follow all infection control and prevention measures it has put in place to mitigate the spread of the virus.

### ***Change in communication***

Because the positivity rate in Illinois has decreased to 2.0 percent, the lowest since it was first measured, and the vaccination rate has significantly increased, the threat of COVID-19 is at bay. So we are suspending our frequent outreach to communicate with you. Still, when there is an important modification of our visitation policy or other changes affecting residents and staff, we will notify you.

Please call me at 773-253-3627 to share your concerns, to answer your questions and to suggest more ways to enjoy life at Mercy Circle. We value the role you play in the revitalization of our community. Thank you for your sustained support and prayers.

Enjoy spending time with those you love,



Frances Lachowicz  
Executive Director