



August 27, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Staff Members,

We approach the end of August with good news: Our community still remains free of the virus since June 22, 2021. Also, we continue to move closer to achieving 100 percent compliance for employees being vaccinated no later than September 21.

Responding to the newest CDC and IDPH guidelines

With the rising positivity rates in Illinois and Chicago as well as the surge of the Delta variant, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its recommendations which Mercy Circle faithfully follows.

- **Boosters:** Mercy Circle has begun plans for clinics on campus where residents and staff members can receive their third dose. We will announce the details as soon as they are in place.
- **Flu shots:** As we plan for booster clinics, we are addressing the best practice for when to administer flu shots.
- **Masks:** All residents and visitors—even if they are fully vaccinated—must wear a mask covering their nose and mouth when they are in common areas and hallways and at Mass in the Chapel, during exercise and while participating in other activities.

The only time residents can remove a mask is when they are in their home or at their table in their dining room. Guests may remove their mask when in a residence if both residents and visitors are fully vaccinated.

Residents also are expected to wear a mask whenever an employee enters their apartment or suite.

All employees, third-party providers and vendors are required to wear a mask at all times when they are in our community.

Current safety precautions at Mercy Circle

Due to our virus-free status, all residents can gather for activities and programs as long as they wear a mask, observe social distancing when possible and practice hand-hygiene.

- All assisted living, memory care or skilled nursing care residents, even those who are fully vaccinated, who
 - Leave our campus for any reason, will be closely monitored for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days upon their return ▼

- Stay elsewhere overnight or longer, including being in the hospital, will be quarantined for 14 days
- All new residents in all areas of our community will be quarantined for 14 days regardless of their vaccination status
- Visitors should go directly to a resident's home and are not permitted to stop in common areas, dining rooms, the Bistro and activity rooms

Be mindful of ways to protect yourself and others

Regardless of your vaccination status, lessen your risk of contracting COVID-19 by following these guidelines

- Stay home or isolate if you do not feel well
- Live a low-risk lifestyle and avoid large gatherings
- Practice 6-foot social distancing with others
- Wash or sanitize your hands thoroughly and frequently
- Comply with restrictions published as part of Chicago's travel advisory
- Residents should call me at extension 2637 if they experience symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with the virus
- Visitors should call 773-253-3600 if and when you learn you have symptoms or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 after visiting at Mercy Circle

Before each visit, guests should review the current *Visitor Guidelines* posted on our website. When the weather is pleasant, consider visiting on the patio adjacent to the assisted living wing and near our main entrance.

Mercy Circle follows infection control measures to mitigate the spread of the virus. Please call me at 773-253-3627 to share your ideas for protecting everyone here.

Best wishes,



Frances Lachowicz
Executive Director