



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members  
FROM Frances Lachowicz   
DATE November 17, 2021  
SUBJ One Staff Member Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

On Tuesday, November 16, a fully vaccinated employee in our maintenance department tested positive for COVID-19. With the onset of a sore throat, a possible symptom of the virus, this staff member requested a rapid test that was administered here. Our staff member immediately went home to recuperate and only will return to our campus in accordance with CDC protocols. Please honor this individual's privacy by following HIPAA guidelines.

Because this employee only had limited contact with one resident, whom we are testing today, Mercy Circle can continue its current programs for visitations, Mass in the Chapel, activities and dining services. Please read the *Visitor Guidelines* on our website before planning a visit.

Employees in the maintenance department completed rapid tests today and all tested negative. These staff members will be tested periodically for the next 14 days. To comply with CMS and IDPH directives, we will increase our screening and monitoring for assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents.

***Being smart about limiting exposure to the virus is key***

Issuing our community's first 12-hour advisory about a new case of COVID-19 since September 8, 2021, reminds all of us we must remain faithful to all our commonsense practices to mitigate the spread of the virus. Even with achieving the highest possible level of being a fully vaccinated community of residents and staff members, there is no guarantee we can escape the newest surge of COVID-19 during the last two weeks.

On Tuesday, November 16, Governor JB Pritzker announced 11,632 new and probable COVID-19 cases reported on Monday, marking the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive day of new daily cases in five-digits. This month's new daily cases are more than three times what they were during October. And the number of hospitalizations increased by 70 percent during the last two weeks.

Yesterday, the City of Chicago issued its first stay-at-home advisory for all citizens. The City also updated its travel advisory naming 38 States with more than 15 daily cases per 100,000 people.

Please feel free to call 773-253-3627 to discuss your questions and suggestions.