



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE November 19, 2021
SUBJ Two Staff Members Have Tested Positive for COVID-19

Today, two staff members, who are fully vaccinated and had their booster shot, tested positive for COVID-19. Both had contact with residents and employees in our healthcare settings. So this afternoon, we administered rapid tests to all assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents plus all employees working in all settings including independent living. Everyone else had a negative test result.

This morning, a staff member, who works in our therapy department, began to experience symptoms that could be associated with a reaction to the booster. To be prudent, our employee requested a rapid test which revealed a positive result.

When we conducted rapid testing for all other employees, a member of the EVS team, who is asymptomatic, also tested positive for the virus. Both staff members are now home recovering from the virus. They can return to work in 10 days according to CDC guidelines. Please respect their privacy by following HIPAA protocols.

According to current guidelines by the Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health, 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.

During the next two weeks, Mercy Circle periodically will administer tests to all employees and third-party providers as well as assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents. If an independent living resident wants to be tested, please ask the Receptionist to schedule a time for you.

Our neighborhood is at risk

While all of us have done our best to ensure safety measures by achieving the highest possible level for a fully vaccinated community, we must be vigilant due to the resurgence of COVID-19 in Illinois. Closer to home, on Thursday, November 18, AXIOS reported our zip code 60655 for the Mt. Greenwood and Beverly neighborhoods as the hot spot in Chicago with the highest positivity rate of 5.5 percent. What makes this fact more dangerous is that the full vaccination rate for people in 60655 is below 70 percent.

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