



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members

FROM Frances Lachowicz

DATE November 30, 2021

SUBJ One Short-Term Stay Rehab Resident Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

This afternoon, a short-term stay resident, who was admitted to Mercy Circle earlier this month for our rehab program, tested positive for COVID-19. Our temporary resident, who is asymptomatic and fully vaccinated, is quarantined in the person's suite. Our staff members wear appropriate PPE when caring for this resident and carefully dispose it.

According to our protocol, this individual tested negative for the virus just before being discharged from the hospital and again when admitted here before Thanksgiving. Please respect this person's privacy by following HIPAA protocols.

We only identified this case of COVID-19 because we are conducting tests approximately every five days for assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents and all staff members since two individuals tested positive for the virus earlier this month. We now will continue this practice for the next two weeks. If an independent living resident wants to be tested, please ask the Receptionist to schedule a time for you.

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.

New concerns about transmission of COVID-19

Please stay home if you begin to experience anything that seems like a minor symptom associated with COVID-19 and get tested before visiting Mercy Circle or leaving your residence here. And follow all basic precautions that have become part of our daily life.

The number of new cases of COVID-19 reported more than doubled from October 22 until Thanksgiving Day. And even though experts only have begun to study the impact of the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 in our country, we urge everyone to avoid opportunities for transmission.

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