



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE December 8, 2021
SUBJ One Skilled Nursing Care Resident Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

Today, we administered a rapid test for a skilled nursing care resident, who was admitted here last week, that indicated a positive outcome for COVID-19.

Until today, this person had two recent negative test results for the virus: late last week when discharged from the hospital and admitted here, and on Tuesday, December 7, when tested as part of our testing protocol for all residents in healthcare settings here.

When our new resident began to experience symptoms associated with COVID-19 this morning, we administered another rapid test which yielded a positive result. Please respect this person's privacy by following HIPAA protocols.

Since then, we moved this resident to a private room for isolation at the end of the skilled nursing care hallway that has been designated for those who contract the virus. Our staff members caring for this person follow all safety protocols and they wear appropriate PPE which they discard with care.

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

During a joint meeting on Tuesday, the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health announced the first case of a person infected with the Omicron variant. Early indications are the Omicron variant may be more transmissible.

They reminded us, however, there are easy-to-follow precautions all of us can take to slow the spread of the virus. 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 are posted on our website and have become part of our daily life. ▼

As part of our current monitoring protocol, Mercy Circle will conduct rapid tests for all assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents, as well as all employees and third-party providers, for the next two weeks. If an independent living resident wants to be tested, please ask the Receptionist to schedule a time for you.

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