



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members

FROM Frances Lachowicz

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances Lachowicz".

DATE December 19, 2021

SUBJ One CNA Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

On Saturday, a full-time CNA, who is asymptomatic and fully vaccinated, had a positive result for COVID-19 after taking a rapid test as part of our current program to identify as quickly as possible any new cases within our community.

On Wednesday, when our employee returned to work after a brief absence, the CNA had a negative result for a rapid test. Because our staff member was not assigned to work on Friday, this CNA took a rapid test on December 18 before starting work. That test result was positive.

All results are negative for our weekly testing protocol for all assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents as well as employees and third-party providers completed on Friday, December 17.

Year's highest number of new cases raises our concerns

According to the City of Chicago, the 7.6 positivity rate for our zip code, 60655, exceeds the citywide average. Illinois' positivity rate jumped to 7.7 percent on Friday, up from 5.9 percent on Thursday.

On Friday, December 17, the number of new and probable cases reached 10,660, compared with 7,390 reported by the Illinois Department of Public Health last Monday. The State's highest number of new cases on a single day in 2021 was reported as 12,288 cases on Thursday, December 16.

It is critical that we increase our faithfulness to following all safety precautions that have become part of daily life here. We continue our plan for frequent testing for at least the next two weeks. In addition, we will test staff members and residents at other times when they indicate a reason to do so. Our goal is to slow the spread of the virus by identifying new cases as quickly as possible.

We encourage residents and their guests to embrace a low-risk lifestyle by limiting gatherings to small events only with others who are vaccinated.



In addition, we must do our part to support infection control by wearing a mask, by washing our hands, and by avoiding crowds where it's likely someone may have or have been exposed to COVID-19. Everyone should observe social distancing in all common areas.

Only Mercy Circle residents can attend Mass in the Chapel, activities and dining services. Please read the *Visitor Guidelines* on our website before planning a visit in a resident's apartment or suite.

I welcome your questions and suggestions when you call me at 773-253-3627.