



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members

FROM Frances Lachowicz

DATE December 22, 2021

SUBJ One CNA Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

When a part-time CNA, who is fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, participated in our weekly rapid testing program on Wednesday, our staff member received a positive result for COVID-19. This employee, who wears all appropriate PPE, last cared for our skilled nursing care residents on Wednesday.

This CNA immediately went home to recover during the next 10 days and only return to work at Mercy Circle in accordance with CDC regulations. Please follow HIPAA guidelines to honor our staff member's privacy as well as the privacy of others who are coping with a variety of health challenges.

On Wednesday, December 22, Mercy Circle is conducting our weekly testing protocol for all assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents as well as employees and third-party providers.

***Please sustain your vigilance***

I am very proud of how members of the Mercy Circle community stay the course instead of succumbing to "COVID fatigue." Being smart about a virus we cannot see, but certainly know its presence when it strikes, prepares us for the onset of the Omicron variant, which is very transmissible. It also increases our guard against the current spike in new cases of the Delta variant.

***Expectations for Christmastime celebrations***

All services continue including activities, the beauty shop and communal dining.

- Ask your friends and family members, who are not vaccinated, to stay home and not visit during the Christmas holidays. Even though this is very disappointing, it is the right decision.
- Limit all gatherings to small groups in which everyone is vaccinated.
- Direct all guests to our *Visitor Guidelines* on Mercy Circle's website before planning a visit in a resident's apartment or suite.



- Increase your adherence to safety practices to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
  - Wear a tight-fitting mask that covers your nose and mouth
  - Wash your hands frequently
  - Observe social distancing in all common areas
  - Contact the reception desk and stay in your apartment if you think you may have symptoms or been exposed to someone with the virus
  - Request a test if you notice symptoms associated with COVID-19
  - Limit your time away from Mercy Circle
  - Avoid crowds

Please embrace how to live a low-risk lifestyle and encourage others to do the same. Call me at 773-253-3627 to discuss your suggestions and questions.