



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE December 25, 2021
SUBJ Two Residents, Two Employees Have Tested Positive for COVID-19

Since Christmas Eve, four more members of our community have tested positive for COVID-19 including

- Two residents, who began to experience symptoms, asked for rapid tests
- One kitchen staff member, who last worked on December 21, called and asked for a rapid test, which we conducted outside here, after learning about an exposure to a family member who has COVID-19
- One server, who most recently worked on December 22 in dining rooms for independent and assisted living residents, began to experience symptoms and was tested elsewhere

All are isolating at home as they recuperate from the virus. Our employees only will return to work in accordance with CDC regulations. Will you please follow HIPAA guidelines to respect the privacy of these individuals as well as others who recently had a positive outcome for the virus?

We are grateful so many residents could celebrate Christmas with their family and friends as well as each other. Mercy Circle concurs with the directive from the Illinois Department of Public Health to strive to keep our community open for residents' daily life and for visitors. We rely on your cooperation with some temporary measures to ensure your safety.

Opt for virtual visits

For the immediate future, we ask you to consider adjusting your plans based on the current realities. Arrange for virtual visits by calling the Receptionist at extension 3600 for assistance setting up your visit. We hope you agree this is a prudent path to take as a reliable, temporary alternative to in-person gatherings.

Protect yourself and others

All staff members wear appropriate PPE. We also follow all facets of infection control practices throughout our campus.



With so many people now asymptomatic, we value frequent testing to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

- All assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents, as well as staff members and third-party providers are tested every week.
- Independent living residents, who want to be tested, should contact the Receptionist at extension 3600.

Make taking precautions your top priority

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 at this time.
- 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 practice a low-risk lifestyle during this major surge of COVID-19 in Chicago and Illinois and across the country. Encourage others to do the same. Call me at 773-253-3627 to discuss your suggestions and to ask your questions.

Please take care of yourselves.