



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE December 31, 2021
SUBJ One Resident, One Staff Member Have Tested Positive for COVID-19

When we conducted our Friday protocol for rapid testing today, two members of our community received positive outcomes.

Both, who had just begun to notice mild symptoms, and now are isolating in their homes to recuperate are

- One assisted living resident
- One CNA, who was working in the assisted living area

Our staff member only will return to Mercy Circle in compliance with CDC, CMS and IDPH regulations. Please follow HIPAA guidelines to respect the privacy of these individuals as well as other residents and staff members, who thankfully are recovering from the virus.

Tens of thousands of reasons to protect yourself and others

Why forgo plans to join indoor or outdoor gatherings? The Illinois Department of Public Health announced 30,386 new cases of COVID-19 were reported on Thursday. Compared with yesterday's report of 21,098 new cases the day before, we have just witnessed the biggest jump in cases since February 2020.

So now more than ever with more cases this month at Mercy Circle, we strongly encourage you to avoid all large gatherings and those where people who may have been exposed to the virus might be. Plus, other ways to do your part to slow the spread of the virus include

- Staying home if you are not feeling well or have been with someone with the virus
- Postponing in-person visits and calling 773-253-3600 or sending a request to LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org for assistance with arranging virtual visits
- Staying in the wing where residents live and considering the risks before deciding to visit someone who lives in another area here
- Participating in smaller groups in rooms set for social distancing still for recreational and spiritual programs
- Asking skilled nursing care residents to watch Mass on Channel 8 instead of going to the Chapel



Of course, even when we might feel the onset of “COVID fatigue,” we must always wear a mask, observe social distancing and practice hand-hygiene.

At this time, our leadership team has

- Restricted admissions to skilled nursing care only for current residents if and when the need arises
- Planned staff members’ assignments with the goal of employees consistently working in only one area of our community

We also conduct rapid tests for everyone on Tuesdays and Fridays to identify new incidences of the virus as soon as possible. With most people asymptomatic, we want to reduce ways the virus can spread among ourselves.

Today residents welcomed the new year in their dining rooms as they enjoyed a special menu and music. Festive decorations added to the fun as everyone participated in an early countdown to 2022.

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