



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE January 3, 2022
SUBJ One Resident, Three Staff Members Have Tested Positive for COVID-19

This resident's experience shows us how quickly circumstances can change and reminds us it is important to pay attention to a change in how you feel.

- One assisted living resident, who began to feel symptoms this weekend, tested positive after having a negative result on Friday

Three staff members, who received rapid tests today, have positive results including

- One asymptomatic CNA, who worked this morning in our skilled nursing care community
- One housekeeper, who began to experience mild symptoms, came to campus today for another rapid test because our employee had a negative outcome for Friday's rapid test
- One server, who experienced symptoms during the morning shift in the assisted living dining room

Everyone is recuperating in their homes. Our employees and third-party providers only return to Mercy Circle in compliance with CDC, CMS and IDPH regulations. Please follow HIPAA guidelines to respect the privacy of these individuals newly diagnosed with COVID-19, as well as other residents and staff members, who are recovering from the virus.

We continue to conduct rapid tests for everyone on Tuesdays and Fridays as the quickest way to identify new occurrences of the virus. When someone receives a positive result, we also administer a PCR test and send it to our lab for confirmation. And if you detect the onset of symptoms associated with the virus or are exposed to someone who has COVID-19, please contact the receptionist to schedule a rapid test.

Current surge in new cases should inform your plans

At the beginning of 2022, we are witnessing the largest-ever surge in new cases of COVID-19. So, please embrace practicing a low-risk lifestyle by

- Staying home if you are not feeling well or have been with someone with COVID-19
- Postponing in-person visits and calling 773-253-3600 or sending a request to LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org for assistance with arranging virtual visits ▼

We also ask residents to

- Stay in the wing where you live and consider the risks before deciding to visit someone who lives in another area here
- Participate in activities where gatherings are set-up for smaller groups in rooms set for social distancing

We ask skilled nursing care residents to watch Mass on Channel 8 instead of going to the Chapel.

We also remind independent living residents about temporary adjustments in services until further notice

- The Bistro only will provide self-service for coffee, tea, hot chocolate and fresh fruit. It will not prepare and serve breakfast and lunch.
- The staff behind the kitchen window in the dining room for assisted living will prepare menu items for breakfast and lunch, usually served in the Bistro. Please place your order when you arrive.
- Housekeeping is temporarily suspended, but we hope to restore this service within the next two weeks.

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

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