



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE January 4, 2022
SUBJ One Resident, One Staff Member Have Tested Positive for COVID-19

We today administered rapid tests to all residents living in all areas in our community. All but one had negative results for COVID-19.

- One assisted living resident began to feel mild symptoms today and is recuperating at home

In addition, our return-to-work testing policy revealed a positive outcome for

- One CNA, who had not been at work for the last 10 days due to another illness, returned today to start working in our memory care wing but went home after receiving a positive result for a rapid test

When someone receives a positive result, we also administer a PCR test and send it to our lab for confirmation.

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.

Starting with tonight's shift and continuing on Wednesday, we will complete rapid testing for employees and third-party providers. If any learn they have positive outcomes for COVID-19, they only return to Mercy Circle in compliance with CDC, CMS and IDPH regulations.

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

With Governor JB Pritzker's announcement today of 20,866 new cases reported on Monday, Illinois sustains its record-breaking surge due to the Omicron variant.

We ask guests to consider

- 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 have asked 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

For the near future, we have asked skilled nursing care residents to watch Mass on Channel 8 instead of going to the Chapel.

Our thanks to independent living residents for accommodating 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.

Our leadership team continues to

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

We truly appreciate your support and willingness to stay the course during our current challenge. Will you please call me at 773-253-3627 to discuss your suggestions and to ask your questions?