



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE January 7, 2022
SUBJ Two Staff Members have Tested Positive for COVID-19

When we conducted communitywide rapid testing today, two staff members received positive outcomes for COVID-19.

- One maintenance worker asked to be tested before starting work with the onset of some symptoms
- One culinary team worker also asked for a test after starting work when experiencing mild symptoms

Both are now home recuperating, and both had negative results for their rapid tests on Tuesday. All employees only will return to work in accordance with CDC standards. Please follow HIPAA guidelines to respect their privacy.

Progress report for residents, staff members

I am delighted to share more good news with you

- Two independent living residents have recuperated from the virus and returned to their normal daily activities
- Three of our staff members have recovered from COVID-19 and have returned to work this week in accordance with CDC standards

In addition, three skilled nursing care residents with mild symptoms, who have been in isolation, are expected to end their quarantine on Saturday. None of them required hospitalization or extensive treatment.

Please follow HIPAA guidelines to respect the privacy of members of our community who still are recuperating from COVID-19.

Testing protocol helps early detection

On Tuesday and Friday, Mercy Circle is proceeding with our current schedule of rapid tests for all staff members and assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents. When someone receives a positive result for a rapid test, we also administer a PCR test and send it to our lab for confirmation.

If you think you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, please contact the receptionist to schedule a rapid test.



Temporary adjustments to services, programs

Due to the high positivity rate in our surrounding neighborhoods, our beauty shop will remain closed for the next few weeks. We continue to set-up rooms to accommodate social distancing for activities and dining services for smaller groups.

For independent living residents, we hope housekeeping services will resume during the week of January 17. The Bistro remains closed except for self-service for coffee, tea and fresh fruit and buffet services continues in the main dining room. Thank you for your gracious patience and understanding the myriad reasons for these temporary changes.

Main reason we sustain our precautions

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 42,903 new cases of COVID-19 that were reported for Thursday's total. This is only a slight decrease from Wednesday's 44,089 new cases, making January 6 the all-time record for a single day of new cases reported.

To protect yourself and each other, we urge you to

- Stay home even if you are feeling okay
- Isolate if you experience symptoms
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Wear a mask
- Observe social distancing
- Wash your hands

Please postpone in-person visits and call 773-253-3600 or send a request to LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org to arrange virtual visits. If you still plan to visit, carefully read the *Visitor Guidelines* posted on our website.

We appreciate residents' willingness 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
- Accommodate any temporary adjustments in housekeeping and dining services

We are very grateful that your sense of community helps Mercy Circle mitigate a more aggressive spread of the virus. Please call me at 773-253-3627 to share your suggestions and to ask your questions.