



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE January 10, 2022
SUBJ One Staff Member Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

Today, we tested one server working in the assisted living dining room because our employee, who also worked this past weekend, began to feel ill while working during today's shift. A rapid test confirmed a positive outcome for COVID-19.

This employee immediately went home to recuperate. All employees, who have a positive test result, only will return to work in accordance with CDC standards. Please follow HIPAA guidelines to respect the privacy of those who have the virus.

This week's test plan

On Tuesday and Friday, Mercy Circle will administer rapid tests for all staff members and for assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents. When a rapid test indicates a positive result, we administer a PCR test for our lab to confirm the result.

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

Please be mindful of the exceptionally high 28.8 percent positivity rate for our 60655 zip code. Our surrounding area exceeds Chicago's positivity rate of 17.1 percent and Illinois' statewide rate of 17.3 percent.

During this time of high transmissibility, Mercy Circle

- Closed our beauty shop for the next few weeks
- Set-up rooms to accommodate social distancing so residents can gather in smaller groups for activities and dining
- Suspended housekeeping for independent living residents until next week
- Arranged for the Bistro to provide only self-service for coffee, tea and fresh fruit
- Provides buffet service in the main dining room

Please adhere to all the basic safety precautions that are part of our daily life. Consider replacing in-person visits with virtual ones. 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.

Call me at 773-253-3627 to share your suggestions and to discuss your questions.