




TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE January 11, 2022
SUBJ One Staff Member Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

I am starting my advisory today with 100 percent good news about the results for rapid tests administered today by Saint Xavier University nursing students. So far

- All assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents have negative results
- All but one staff member, who was tested elsewhere, received negative outcomes
 - One CNA, who worked in assisted living and skilled nursing care wings this past weekend, called to inform me about receiving a positive result when tested elsewhere after being exposed to someone with COVID-19

Mercy Circle will complete this testing cycle late on Wednesday.

Our CNA already was at home recuperating. All employees, who have had 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.

More good news

All residents, who completed their quarantine period after a positive test result, are enjoying their daily activities. Still, one assisted living resident, who tested positive just last week, is recovering. Fortunately, none needed extensive treatment or hospitalization.

Mercy Circle has returned to providing more services too.

- The Bistro now will take orders for breakfast and lunch plus provide its self-service beverage and fruit offerings from Tuesdays through Fridays
- The housekeeper for independent living residents returns on Friday and resumes a regular schedule starting next Tuesday, January 18

Next testing date, current adjustments

On Friday, January 14, we will complete rapid tests for all staff members and for residents in all healthcare settings. When a rapid test indicates a positive result, we administer a PCR test for our lab to confirm that 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. We value your participation in our twice weekly testing protocol during this worldwide surge in COVID-19.

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 28,110 new cases. Closer to home, the City of Chicago published its most recent positivity rate at 28.8 percent for our immediate neighborhood.

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 in their area
- Provides buffet service in the dining room for independent living residents

Please think twice before planning in-person visits and consider the merits of opting for 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.

PS While we are immersed in the daily process of doing our best to protect everyone in our community from COVID-19, let's pause to remember how we can help advance the mission of Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday is celebrated on Monday. His words and actions amplify two of the five critical concerns—anti-racism and non-violence—of the Sisters of Mercy.