




TO Residents, Families and Staff Members  
FROM Frances Lachowicz   
DATE January 18, 2022  
SUBJ Two Staff Members Have Tested Positive for COVID-19

This afternoon, two CNAs, who were assisting residents in our skilled nursing care community, participated in our regular rapid testing program scheduled on Tuesdays and Fridays. When both asymptomatic employees received positive results for COVID-19, they immediately went home to recuperate. As is our practice, we also administered PCR tests sent to our lab to confirm the outcomes of those rapid tests.

All other staff members tested today have negative results. Employees only return to work in accordance with CDC standards. Please follow HIPAA guidelines to respect their privacy.

I am pleased to report that all assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents received negative results for their rapid tests today. Also, there have been no new cases of COVID-19 among our residents since January 4.

***Practice prudence even with improving news***

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 Chicago Department of Public Health confirmed the drop in Chicago's positivity rate to 12.6 percent from 17.2 percent seven days prior. Our zip code still has a higher positivity rate of 13.6 percent, a significant drop from 28.8 percent seven days ago, but still cause for concern.

Will you please be considerate of the common good when you weigh the risks still prevalent in our surrounding neighborhoods? Before planning in-person visits, consider a temporary shift to virtual ones. Call 773-253-3600 or send a request to [LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org](mailto: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.