



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE January 21, 2022
SUBJ More Good News and Sage Advice to Share

We are heartened and grateful to report that Mercy Circle concludes another week with no new cases of COVID-19 among assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents as well as staff members who received rapid tests today.

Stay smart about protecting yourself and others

As you know, the Illinois Department of Public Health has announced that we have passed the peak in the surge of new cases. On the other hand, IDPH reported yesterday that 198 deaths caused by COVID-19 on Wednesday made it the third worst day for fatalities—since December 5, 2020, two weeks before any vaccine was available.

According to the City of Chicago’s most recently published report, COVID-19 still is at a 13.2 percent positivity rate in the 60655 zip code area—well above the eight percent threshold to decrease mitigation measures.

So, please include an ounce of prevention in your daily life as we continue to mitigate the spread of the Omicron variant here and ask

- Everyone to replace cloth masks with tight-fitting surgical or KN95 masks; surgical masks are available at the reception desk.
- Anyone, who has tested positive or has symptoms of COVID-19, to quarantine for 10 days before visiting a resident.
- Staff members and residents in healthcare settings participate in regularly scheduled testing days—and will at Mercy Circle on Tuesdays and Fridays—until a community can tally 14 consecutive days with no new positive cases of the virus.
- Ask for a rapid test if you begin to experience symptoms of the virus or learn you have been with someone who has COVID-19.



Expectations for visitors

As you know, our community embraces the Mercy tradition of hospitality, but we ask for your cooperation even as the number of new cases subsides.

- If you still plan to visit, carefully read the *Visitor Guidelines* posted on our website.
- Weigh the benefits and risks when planning in-person visits and consider planning a virtual one while there is a high positivity rate in the area around our campus. Email LifeEnrichment@MercyCircle.org or call 773-253-3600 to arrange virtual visits.
- Please stop at the reception desk to complete Mercy Circle's screening process and proceed directly to a resident's home without stopping in dining and activities rooms.

We are delighted to see daily life at Mercy Circle begin to return to our typical lifestyle and appreciate your help in making sure we continue to move forward in that direction.

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