



January 28, 2022

Dear Residents and Staff Members, Families and Friends,

I am very pleased to share good news about our progress: Mercy Circle has had no new cases of COVID-19 since January 18. With this accomplishment, we now will administer a rapid test only when someone here experiences symptoms associated with the virus or learns about a recent exposure to a person who has COVID-19. We hope that the last eight weeks of twice weekly testing for everyone here now is in our rearview mirror.

Please join our leadership team in expressing heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team members who consistently keep residents' safety and well-being their highest priority. We also are thankful there was no need to hospitalize anyone who had the virus since December 2021. And, better yet, everyone has recovered.

A low-risk lifestyle is a smart choice

Even though the number of new cases subsides, real risks associated with living in a high transmission area remain. Plus, IDPH issued a new guideline restricting visitors with any kind of transmissible virus, such as a cold or flu.

Even as the small pleasures of daily life here return, we encourage residents to

- Ask our receptionist to arrange a rapid test with the onset of symptoms or exposure to someone who has COVID-19
- Wear a KN95 or surgical mask in all common areas
- Pick-up a surgical mask, if you don't have one, from the receptionist
- Wash or sanitize your hands throughout the day
- Avoid large crowds
- Observe social distancing throughout the day

We expect all visitors to follow these and other best practices published in the *Visitor Guidelines* on our website. We move forward, embracing the everyday joys we treasure. Please call me at 773-253-3627 to share your ideas and to discuss your questions.

Best wishes,

Frances Lachowicz
Executive Director