



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

This week, three members of our community have tested positive for COVID-19. These are the first cases of the virus here since March 3, 2022. As you know, the new variant BA 2.12.1 of COVID-19 is significantly increasing the possibility of easy transmission, so please continue to follow the best practices we have instituted for your safety.

- On Monday, an assisted living resident, who began to experience symptoms of COVID-19, was tested and received a positive result.
- On Tuesday, a skilled nursing care resident, who is asymptomatic and recently was admitted from the hospital, received a positive outcome for COVID-19 when we conducted Mercy Circle's protocol for testing all new admissions even though the hospital provided a negative test result.

As a precaution, we tested all other assisted living and skilled nursing care residents and they had negative outcomes for their tests. Both residents are in their homes and our nursing team is providing support and assistance. You can be confident that all our staff members wear appropriate PPE when caring for this person.

- Last night, as part of our current mitigation protocol, we tested all staff members before they began the third shift. A CNA, who is asymptomatic, received a positive result and immediately went home to recuperate.

Please follow HIPAA guidelines to respect the privacy of these individuals, as well as anyone in our community who is coping with a healthcare challenge.

Practical safety precautions matter

Because there has been a 27 percent increase of COVID-19 cases in the City of Chicago during the past week, you are required to wear a mask in all common areas of Mercy Circle. Also regularly wash your hands and be mindful of how you protect yourself in public places such as restaurants and stores.

Please read and follow Mercy Circle's *Visitor Guidelines* posted on our website. Our community follows all the best mitigation practices relevant to COVID-19 that are recommended by CDC and the Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health.

We ask families and other visitors, who may have been exposed to someone with the virus or begin to experience symptoms, to stay home until they are sure they do not carry the virus. Residents and employees, who might experience symptoms or been exposed to someone with COVID-19, should ask the receptionist about a rapid test.

New way to receive future notices

We are in the process of streamlining our way of notifying you about new cases of COVID-19 if and when they occur. To receive notices via email, send an email to Sandy Urbaniak at SUrbaniak@MercyCircle.org. Please type ADD ME TO YOUR E-LIST in the subject line.

Please take care of yourself and each other. If you have any suggestions or questions, please call me at 773-253-3627.