



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members

FROM Frances Lachowicz

DATE May 20, 2022

SUBJ One Resident, One Staff Member Have Tested Positive for COVID-19

On Wednesday, an assisted living resident reported experiencing symptoms. We immediately administered a test, which confirmed a positive result for COVID-19. This resident is recovering in their apartment and receiving care by staff members who wear appropriate PPE.

On Thursday, our current twice weekly testing protocol indicated that a CNA, who is asymptomatic, has the virus. This staff member, who went home to recover, most recently worked in the assisted living and skilled nursing care units. This employee only will return to work in compliance with CDC standards.

Today, we completed testing for all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents. All had negative results. Staff members who were not on our campus yesterday were also tested and all had negative outcomes.

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.

Testing continues

Next week, we again will test all assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents. If any resident or staff member experiences symptoms or may have been exposed to someone who contracted COVID-19, please ask the receptionist to schedule a test.

Learning to live with the virus

We encourage residents to continue to enjoy dining and participating in activities together here. We expect everyone to wear a mask in all common areas and urge you to do so when going to shopping centers and public events where there are crowds. And be especially careful to wash your hands when you return home.

Although Mercy Circle welcomes guests, we remind visitors to stay home if they think they may present a risk to transmitting COVID-19 to residents and staff members.



On Thursday, May 19, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 7,555 new cases of COVID-19, including 2,264 cases in Chicago. This surge reminds us to be vigilant about protecting ourselves and each other from BA 2.12.1—which is much more transmissible than Omicron—even if you are fully vaccinated and have received two booster shots.

Please read and abide by Mercy Circle's *Visitor Guidelines* posted on our website. We faithfully follow all the best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, which are recommended by CDC and the Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health.

New way to receive future notices

If you would prefer to receive notices via email, send an email to Sandy Urbaniak at SUrbaniak@MercyCircle.org. Type ADD ME TO YOUR E-LIST in the subject line.

Let's find fresh ways to enjoy our beautiful campus and enjoy each other's company. If you have any suggestions or questions, please call me at 773-253-3627.