



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members

FROM Frances Lachowicz

DATE May 24, 2022

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

As part of our current protocol for testing residents and staff members, we identified two more individuals who have positive outcomes for COVID-19.

- A new skilled nursing resident had a positive result for a rapid test yesterday. This individual began to experience mild symptoms associated with the virus.

For the next 10 days, this resident will be isolated in the person's suite. Staff members, who are providing care, wear appropriate PPE and properly dispose of all items worn and used.

- A CNA, who worked in the skilled nursing care wing during the overnight shift starting on Monday, May 23, had a positive result which was discovered during our scheduled testing initiative. This staff member is at home recovering.

Our employees and third-party providers only return to work in compliance with CDC guidelines.

Please follow HIPAA guidelines to respect the privacy of individuals recovering from the virus, as well as anyone who is coping with any healthcare challenge.

Testing continues

We continue to test twice a week all assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents as well as staff members until we reach 14 consecutive days with no new cases of COVID-19.

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.

Mercy Circle remains open

We ask visitors to stay home if they think they may present a risk to transmitting COVID-19 to residents and staff members. Residents' current social gatherings, dining programs and Mass in the Chapel continue as part of our daily life. ▼

Everyone must wear a mask in all common areas here. We also urge you to wear a mask when at public places with crowds. And please wash your hands when you return home or to use sanitizer when you register for a visit here.

This morning, the health officials for Chicago and Cook County predicted our region will move up from medium-risk to high-risk (using the metric of more than 20 new hospitalizations in a day) for COVID-19 transmission before the end of this week. As of Monday, May 23, the City of Chicago reports an average of close to 1,200 new cases every day and a positivity rate of 6.3 percent.

This considerable increase provides a good reason to read and abide by Mercy Circle's *Visitor Guidelines* posted on our website. To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we comply with the best practices recommended by CDC and the Illinois, Cook County and Chicago Departments of Public Health.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please call me at 773-253-3627.