




TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz 
DATE May 25, 2022
SUBJ Three Residents Have Tested Positive for COVID-19

Due to the increasing prevalence of COVID-19 in Chicago and across Illinois, Mercy Circle faithfully follows the guidelines of the Illinois, Cook County and Chicago Departments of Public Health. One of the essential practices is conducting twice weekly tests to identify as soon as possible residents and staff members, who may be asymptomatic, but have contracted COVID-19.

Yesterday's tests revealed three skilled nursing care residents, who are asymptomatic, have positive outcomes for their rapid tests. All will be monitored and remain in isolation for the next 10 days.

Our staff members comply with our strict infection control measures, including daily screening, regular cleaning and wearing appropriate PPE. On Tuesday, we set-up a new COVID-19 unit at the end of our skilled nursing care wing.

All other skilled nursing care residents had negative results for yesterday's tests for the virus. I am pleased to report that all assisted living and memory care residents also tested yesterday have negative outcomes for the virus.

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.

Mercy Circle urges caution for visitors

We expect that, before the end of this week, the status of Chicago and Cook County will escalate to high-risk for transmission of COVID-19. This is why you are asked to stay home if you think you might have COVID-19 or been exposed to someone who does. And before you visit, please read and follow Mercy Circle's *Visitor Guidelines* posted on our website.

Residents can continue to enjoy all social gatherings, dining programs and Mass in the Chapel as part of our daily life because we diligently follow strict infection control guidelines, including regularly disinfecting high-touch surfaces and common areas. Everyone wears a mask in all common areas here. ▼

With this current surge in new cases, please wear a mask when you are in public places with crowds. Observe social distancing when possible. And wash your hands when you return home or use sanitizer when you register for a visit here.

Twice-weekly testing identifies new cases

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 experiences symptoms or may have been exposed to someone who contracted COVID-19, please ask the receptionist to schedule a test. All staff members know to immediately inform their supervisor.

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