



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members

FROM Frances Lachowicz

DATE June 27, 2022

SUBJ One Independent Living Resident Tested Positive for COVID-19

During our scheduled testing session on Friday, June 24, one independent living resident, with mild symptoms, received a positive outcome for COVID-19. Please honor the privacy of this resident, who will isolate in the person's apartment for the required length of time.

This occurrence highlights how quickly a person's status can change because this resident had a negative test result on Wednesday, June 22. So, please be sure to monitor yourselves for the onset of symptoms...and ask the receptionist to arrange a rapid test for you.

Good news! During the week of June 20, all assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents received negative results for all their tests.

High transmission rate prompts more vigilance

All residents continue to enjoy meals in the dining room and participate in scheduled social events and activities. They also gather for Mass in the Chapel.

Please observe all basic precautions when you welcome visitors or join any gathering. Wear a mask in public areas; observe social distancing when possible; and wash your hands frequently throughout the day and when you arrive here.

Due to the high transmission level of current variants of COVID-19 in Chicago and across Cook County, our employees wear masks at all times and add face shields when caring for residents.

During this week, we will test all residents on their designated days. In addition, staff members again will be tested twice.

New protocol: Residents returning from hospitals, new admissions

As a precaution, we have instituted a policy to quarantine for 10 days any newly admitted residents whose vaccinations are not up-to-date; this protocol also applies to any current residents when they return from a hospital stay.



For Mercy Circle, “up-to-date” requires individuals to have two shots of a MNRA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine—plus two booster shots for those over 50 or with immunocompromised conditions.

If any residents do not meet this standard, they should contact the receptionist to request a booster shot.

Visitors welcome

All visitors are expected to read Mercy Circle’s *Visitor Guidelines*, which are posted on our website, before they plan to visit our community. They also will be asked to register each time they visit.

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