



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members

FROM Frances Lachowicz

DATE July 27, 2022

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

During our current testing protocol, a staff member, whose office is in skilled nursing care but who does not provide direct care to residents there, received a positive outcome for COVID-19 on Sunday, July 24. In addition, a therapist, who also works in skilled nursing care, called to inform us about a positive result with an at-home test to confirm the person's symptoms are related to the virus. Both are at home and only will return to work in compliance with CDC standards.

This afternoon when we conducted our regularly scheduled testing, one skilled nursing resident received a positive result. This resident now is isolated in the person's suite and will be cared for by our nursing staff who wear the appropriate PPE and properly dispose of it. Please respect the privacy of these three members of our community.

We will test all residents, who live on the third floor of the healthcare wing, for the next two weeks. This and our other practices aim to detect any cases early due to the high transmission power of the current variant of COVID-19 to better protect you.

Be cautious as you enjoy daily life

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.

With high alerts for both the City of Chicago and Cook County as the number of new cases rapidly rise, we urge you to follow all basic precautions when you have guests 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.

Even though all staff members are vaccinated, Mercy Circle follows the guidance of CMS and IDPH with semi-weekly testing for all employees and providers working here who have not had their first booster shot and those over 50 years who have not yet had their second booster.

All guests are expected to read Mercy Circle's *Visitor Guidelines* posted on our website, before each visit and to register each time they arrive. If you have any suggestions or questions, please call me at 773-253-3627.