




TO Residents, Families and Staff Members  
FROM Frances Lachowicz   
DATE November 17, 2022  
SUBJ One Nurse in Skilled Nursing Care Has Tested Positive for COVID-19

On Wednesday, November 16, a nurse manager, who does not have direct contact with residents when working in our skilled nursing care community, tested positive for COVID-19. Our employee was home ill and got tested. The staff person will return to Mercy Circle in compliance with CDC guidelines. Please respect this staff member's privacy.

As a precaution, Mercy Circle will test all skilled care residents for the next two weeks for any detection of the virus. Also, staff will test twice weekly for the next 14 days. All residents continue to be monitored and screened daily for symptoms.

***Prudent precautions can make a difference***

Current guidelines no longer require routine testing of staff members; however, Mercy Circle continues to screen all staff and visitors for signs and symptoms. We ask visitors who are not feeling well to delay their visit until they no longer are having symptoms. Because members of our community are mindful of how COVID-19 is transmitted, we have been fortunate that our most recent case of the virus was reported more than seven weeks ago on September 27.

We appreciate your sustained cooperation by washing your hands regularly and wearing a mask in common areas. We are grateful that people have received their booster shots.

Currently, both the Cook County and the City of Chicago Departments of Public Health published an advisory about a medium COVID-19 level. On Wednesday, November 16, the Illinois Department of Public Health notified the public there were 1,862 new cases of the virus on Tuesday.

If you experience any symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has the virus, please ask the receptionist to arrange for a COVID-19 test.

At Mercy Circle, all activities, programs and amenities remain open. By following our current practices, residents may invite guests for meals. Mass is offered at 11am on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at 4pm on Saturdays; families and friends may join residents for these liturgies.

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.

***Register to receive future notices***

It's been a while, but here is a reminder about a new way to receive information about new cases of COVID-19. Send an email to Sandy Urbaniak at [SUrbaniak@MercyCircle.org](mailto:SUrbaniak@MercyCircle.org). Please type ADD ME TO YOUR E-LIST in the subject line so Sandy can include you in this database.