



TO Residents, Families and Staff Members
FROM Frances Lachowicz *Frances Lachowicz*
DATE January 26, 2023
SUBJ Four Residents and One Staff Member in Short-Term Stay Rehab and Skilled Nursing Care Have Tested Positive for COVID-19

Because they were experiencing symptoms for COVID-19, we tested one resident in long-term care and two in short-term rehab. All three had positive outcomes. On Tuesday, we were notified that a short-term rehab patient, who was recently admitted here but had returned to the hospital for another matter, had a positive test result.

Yesterday, a CNA who reported for the second shift to work in the skilled nursing care community, tested positive for the virus. This CNA immediately left for home to recuperate there, and only will return to Mercy Circle in compliance with CDC guidelines.

All other third floor residents tested had negative results.

Please respect the privacy of all these individuals.

Current changes mitigate the spread of COVID-19

For at least the next two weeks or longer if there are more new cases of COVID-19, we are changing daily practices only for the skilled nursing care and rehab residents on the third floor. Their dining room is rearranged to ensure social distancing. All group activities are suspended, but residents are encouraged to participate in one-on-one activities with staff members.

To contain the spread of COVID-19, we ask all other residents to not visit the skilled nursing care area until further notice. Daily life will continue as usual for all residents in our independent and assisted living as well as our memory care communities. Both beauty shops, however, will be closed until there are no new cases of the virus for 14 consecutive days.

Mercy Circle continues to follow best practices by monitoring assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents for symptoms. We also test frequently all staff members and residents in areas where there was an outbreak.



Independent living residents, who suspect they have symptoms, should ask the receptionist to schedule a test for them.

Please protect each other from the spread of COVID-19, the flu and RSV.

- Frequently wash your hands.
- Always wear a mask in our common areas and when you are in large crowds or with people you do not know.
- Observe social distancing.

And, if you are not feeling 100 percent, please stay home.

Screening provides protection for everyone at Mercy Circle

Before you plan to visit residents or staff members, please read our current *Visitor Guidelines* posted on our website. Expect to answer questions about your health status and to have your temperature recorded by signing into our easy-to-use Accushield kiosks next to the receptionist's desk.

This week, we mark the third anniversary of identifying the first case of COVID-19 in Chicago. So while we know so much more about the virus and vaccinations are lessening their impact for most people, we must adhere to simple ways to minimize its spread. The newest variant, XBB.1.5, which is the most transmissible during the last three years, accounts for more than 40 percent of new cases.

Call me at 773-253-3627 if you have any questions or suggestions.