



December 22, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

Smith Crossing certainly is brimming with Christmas spirit inspired by beautifully decorated Christmas trees, other décor and our annual decorate-your-front-door displays throughout our community. Our special thanks to so many residents who brighten hearts.

This week, residents can look forward to enjoying

- A bountiful array of libations, appetizers and desserts brought to them by Smith Crossing's Holiday Cheer carts starting at 2pm on Wednesday, December 23
- The kitchen team's *25 Days of Holiday Cookies* final cookie-of-the-day will be ready for pick-up on Christmas Day in The Oak Room

To enjoy your selections from our Christmas Day menu, please place your order on the morning of December 25 by calling extension 2317 and arrange to pick-up your feast between 12 and 3pm. And if you prefer, our dining services team will deliver to your residence on the hour until 3pm

### ***Christmastime connections***

We know that forgoing time together with family and friends this holiday season is very disappointing. So we hope residents and their families will plan virtual meetings. Contact Mary DePaola at [MDePaola@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:MDePaola@SmithSeniorLiving.org) or 708-326-2305 for assistance.

We also are looking forward to sharing information and a bit of holiday cheer with families who join our Zoom meeting starting at 6pm on Wednesday, December 23.

To join our meeting, simply click on

<https://zoom.us/j/93945929442?pwd=VUIPY1Z4cTBPN3N4endHZG5VcnVYZz09>

Meeting ID: 939 4592 9442

Passcode: 986803

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

We'll also send everyone, who enrolled in our list to receive emails, a reminder with the above information right after lunchtime on Wednesday.



### ***Testing plan through end of 2020, report on new cases***

At this time, there are no new cases of COVID-19 among residents and staff members to report.

To fulfill our mandates, between 1 and 4pm on Wednesday, December 23, we'll conduct COVID-19 testing in the Bistro for all employees. Also on Wednesday, residents in our healthcare settings will be tested in their apartments. We only will administer rapid tests during the extended holiday weekend for residents and employees who are concerned about their status.

### ***Thank you for being all-in***

Today you received separate correspondence with more information about our progress in getting ready for Smith Crossing's first clinic day in early January 2021 when Walgreens will be onsite to administer the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to all residents and employees.

We are very gratified to see such a wholehearted response to signing up to be vaccinated. Send questions to [COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org).

### ***Illinois remains precautionous, stays in Tier 3***

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 6,239 new and probable cases of COVID-19 today, up significantly from 4,699 announced on Monday, December 21. Also today, Region 7, which includes Will County, posted a positivity rate of 11.7 percent, an uptick from Sunday's rate.

For this year's holiday season, Smith Crossing continues to adhere to all Tier 3 guidelines, which remain in effect. Starting this week, we are encouraging assisted living residents to leave their apartments for exercise and trips to the mailroom as safe ways to socialize.

### **For assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents**

- All outdoor and indoor visits in our licensed areas are suspended even on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- Still allowed are visits by essential caregivers and families spending compassionate care time here
- We are delivering breakfast, lunch and dinner to residents
- We cancelled all small group activities and closed the Salon
- Our staff is more frequently visiting with residents in their apartments
- We have increased the variety of programs, including informative and entertaining broadcasts, now available on Channel 3



- We introduced activities in hallways so residents can enjoy ways of being together while observing social distancing

### **For independent living residents**

- We continue to offer a limited number of 45-minute lobby visits when scheduled with the Receptionist
- Guests are allowed to bring food and beverages as gifts; however, these gifts cannot be consumed during a visit because everyone is expected to wear a mask at all times
- Family compassionate care visits must be approved by Amie Kamba at extension 2329
- While the Dining Room is closed
  - Grab-and-go meals are available at the Bistro and the Dining Room
  - Dinner is delivered upon request by calling extension 2317
  - Both The Oak Room and the Salon are closed
- Emilie's Store remains closed to shoppers but now offers deliveries for essential items on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon
- We have suspended all in-person programs except live broadcasts on Channel 36

### ***Continue to exercise precautions***

All residents must

- Wear a face mask—covering both nose and mouth—when leaving their home and when any employee enters their apartment for any reason
- Observe six-foot social distancing in hallways and during any small gatherings
- Wash their hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer provided at stations throughout our building
- Self-quarantine if they have visited any hot spot designated on Tuesdays by the City of Chicago

All visitors are expected to comply with all these practices and to arrive wearing a mask before they are allowed to enter Smith Crossing.

***Merry Christmas!***

***Amanda Mauceri***

Amanda Mauceri, Executive Director