



July 21, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

I am pleased to report all Smith Crossing employees completed their third round of weekly testing...and all results were negative for COVID-19. This means the Will County Department of Public Health has moved our required testing to bi-weekly for all employees.

As another sign of progress, public health agencies have changed our testing requirement to once a month for assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents. Their next test will be on Tuesday, July 28. This week, we also received good news that our one assisted living resident, who had tested positive, received a negative test result and only needs a second consecutive negative result to join our community activities and programs.

More opportunities to socialize

Having achieved this new benchmark, we are opening and increasing usage for more areas to socialize including the IL Dining Room. We are replacing the tent for the IL Patio destroyed by this past weekend's storm. We also are adding more gatherings for 10 or fewer people interested in fitness classes, educational programs and movies in the theater. All of these expanded programs require our independent living community remains free of COVID-19.

Ongoing precautions to abate the virus' advance

More than ever as we see increases in cases in a variety of places, these accomplishments should motivate us to assume personal responsibility for the safety of everyone in our Smith Crossing family. We must remain diligent about six-foot social distancing, hand-hygiene and mask wearing.

As you already know, Smith Crossing screens all staff members before and after their shift. No visitors, including family members, are allowed in our building. The only exceptions are residents and staff members as well as rare exceptions, namely for end of life visits.

Our newest precaution restricts access, even outdoors, for individuals—employees, family members and residents—who travel to “hot spots” where there is a spike in cases of COVID-19. You can review the list of States, which the City of Chicago updates every Tuesday, by visiting <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>

We believe your community spirit motivates everyone to schedule only outdoor family visits and to minimize all contact with possible sources of the virus, benefitting everyone who cares about the Smith Crossing family.

For assistance with scheduling outdoor visits with skilled nursing care and assisted living residents, please call Mary DePaola at 708-326-2305. Remember we follow CDC guidelines when we recommend only leaving Smith Crossing for necessary medical appointments and wearing a mask.

If residents comply with designated safety precautions, they will not be required to isolate for 14 days. For now, going to church, to a restaurant or to your family's home is not allowed. Please rely on televised religious services.

We adhere to all guidelines published by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Illinois and Will County Departments of Public Health, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Please share your ideas

Please write to COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org so our senior staff member, who monitors your questions, ideas and suggestions, can ask our appropriate colleague to respond to you.

As we return to the way of life at Smith Crossing, which we love, I trust you will participate fully in all the practices we institute to ensure a healthy reentry to community life. I welcome your suggestions to improve our programs and to tap the creativity which enlivens our community.

While the State of Illinois has moved into Phase 4, our community is more cautious because we are making decisions to keep you safe and healthy.

We believe we not only are doing what is best to keep COVID-19 out of Smith Crossing, but also to comply with the many, ever-changing rules.

Very truly yours,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director