



August 4, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

On Saturday, we informed you that one resident and two employees tested positive for COVID-19. Our independent living resident remains at the hospital and both staff members are recovering at home. Please honor the privacy of these individuals by following all HIPAA regulations.

We are administering tests today and Wednesday to all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents and all employees, who care for them.

Precaution and prudence our priority

Due to these new cases, we have suspended several programs that had been designed to encourage residents to enjoy their day in more social settings.

- All outdoor visits for all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents are placed on hold
- Independent living residents' dining program currently is only available on a grab-and-go basis
- Programs such as happy hours and outdoor entertainment are postponed until further notice

We will continue with providing

- Communal dining for assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents because they are seated to comply with six-foot social distancing
- Libations for independent living residents with our travel happy hour cart stationed in the elevator lobbies and traveling on Emilie's Lane to the villas every Friday starting at 4pm
- Life enrichment programs already planned for 10 or fewer people
- Tests for independent living residents who contact Amie Kamba

Please be more mindful than ever that everyone must

- Wear a mask before leaving a residence and only remove it upon returning
- Observe six-foot social distancing at all gatherings, including outdoor events, and individual encounters when walking in hallways and delivering mail and packages to a neighbor

Ongoing adherence to safety protocols

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

We follow the protocols of the Will County Department of Public Health to conduct contact tracing as needed. We also apply the City of Chicago's list of "hot spots" with a spike in cases of COVID-19 to determine who is required self-quarantine for 14 days if someone visits these destinations. This restriction applies to employees, visitors and residents. Today, Puerto Rico was added to the 22 States now considered "hot spots."

We adhere to CDC guidelines recommending all residents only leave Smith Crossing for necessary medical appointments. If it is necessary for residents to schedule an appointment and they comply with our three key precautions regarding COVID-19, they will not be required to isolate for 14 days.

We adopt all guidelines published by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Illinois and Will County Departments of Public Health, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Based on these health agencies' directives, we recommend not going to church, to a restaurant or to your family's home. Please rely on televised religious 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.

While we may be disheartened by these recent new cases, we encourage you to know that all the precautions taken at Smith Crossing are designed first to protect residents and employees. Further, any programs we introduced are vetted to ensure we include all safety measures in planning them.

Your precise compliance with our ever-changing restrictions is essential to protecting everyone who is part of our Smith Crossing family. Thank you for thoughtful participation in our endeavors to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Very truly yours,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director