



August 11, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

On Monday evening, we learned a staff member in dining services received a positive result for a test taken on Tuesday, August 4. This individual most recently worked in our memory care wing on Saturday, August 8, and in our assisted living wing on Sunday, August 9.

We have good news that our independent living resident, who tested positive at the hospital, has received a negative result for a test taken on August 4. This individual, who is asymptomatic, will remain in our COVID-19 Recovery Unit for a full 20 days to recover the person's strength for another reason. Please honor the privacy of these individuals by following all HIPAA regulations.

Illinois Department of Public Health issues new mandates

While both your Smith Crossing team and IDPH decision-makers strive to balance care and caution to minimize your exposure to COVID-19, we also are mindful of how important it is to consider how these precautions affect the quality of life for residents and employees.

Last Friday, IDPH issued new interim guidelines that affect some of our current practices for assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents and employees. We already had in place most of them, but there are a few new directives that supersede what we had shared with you last week.

According to our current status regarding the incidences of COVID-19, Smith Crossing is now following the IDPH guidance called CMS Phase One.

In accordance with IDPH guidelines, we will continue to suspend programs until we achieve a minimum of 14 consecutive days without a new case of the virus.

For assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents

- All outdoor visits remain on hold
- Programs including happy hours and outdoor entertainment remain on hold
- Communal dining is offered on a very limited basis
- Salons will remain closed

For independent living residents

10501 Emilie Lane ■ Orland Park, IL 60467 ■ 708-326-2300 ■ SmithCrossing.org

- Dining program only is available on a grab-and-go basis
- Libations will be served from our traveling happy hour cart, stationed in the elevator lobbies and along Emilie's Lane to the villas, starts at 4pm on Fridays
- Life enrichment programs already planned for 10 or fewer people will convene

Smith Crossing will include the following additions or changes detailed in IDPH's most recent guidelines. Specifically in accordance with IDPH's newest guidelines, Smith Crossing will

- Conduct testing every seven days, in accordance with our established testing plan, for all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents and employees, who have never tested positive, until our community achieves minimum of 14 consecutive days with no new cases of COVID-19
- Allow compassionate care visits to include residents whose health status has sharply declined and those residents who have a close relative or friend who has passed away
- Ask visitors, who develop symptoms of COVID-19 within three days of visiting Smith Crossing to immediately contact the staff member who arranged their visit or the individual whom they visited

Independent living residents who would like to be tested should contact Amie Kamba.

As we witness significant increases in the occurrence of the virus in our region, it is more important than ever for all residents, employees and visitors to

- 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
- Practice hand-hygiene throughout the day

Ongoing adherence to safety protocols

Smith Crossing continues to follow the protocols of the Will County Department of Public Health as well as the City of Chicago's executive order to quarantine for 14 days if traveling to areas with a spike in COVID-19 cases. Current destinations are listed at <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>

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.

It is important to note that these new IDPH guidelines rely on all of Region 7 including Will and Kankakee Counties to meet the criteria designated as part of the new Restore Illinois plan.

While we truly understand how following mandated precautions affect your daily life, Smith Crossing believes our highest priority is your safety. Only with your conscientious adherence to these and other practices, can we better protect everyone who is part of our Smith Crossing family. Thank you for thoughtful participation in our endeavors to abate the spread of the virus.

Very truly yours,

Amanda Mauceri

Amanda Mauceri
Executive Director