



August 18, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

We have received negative results for 400 people at Smith Crossing who were tested last week. They include all employees and third-party caregivers, as well as all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents and 25 independent living residents. Following guidelines published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Smith Crossing does not test asymptomatic individuals who previously tested positive for COVID-19.

Today and Wednesday, we conduct weekly testing for residents and employees to meet the requirements of the Will and Illinois Departments of Public Health. Although they are not required to do so, we offer testing to independent living residents on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and those who would like to be tested should contact Amie Kamba.

I thank you for your understanding and patience as we remain committed to reopening our campus in a responsible manner responsive to numerous guidelines from four health agencies and our weekly test results. With the expectation to sustain our no new cases status, we are making plans to reopen more places and programs according to the new IDPH guidelines, which became effective on Friday, August 14.

Update on residents' programs and services

Communal dining provides a great way for residents to socialize. Currently

- ***Independent living residents'*** dining program is provided for grab-and-go service while we provide several places to enjoy their meals.
 - For the Dining Room, we have tented the outdoor terrace and set-up the Dining Room for 25 percent of seating capacity that observes social distancing for indoor dining
 - For the Bistro, grab-and-go breakfast and lunch are available with outdoor and indoor seating options
 - For our weekly Happy Hour, libations again will be served on our Terrace starting this Friday starting at 4pm
 - The Oak Room remains closed at this time

- ***Assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents*** are encouraged to
 - Enjoy three meals a day in their area's Dining Room which set for 25 percent capacity and social distancing
 - Dine with the same people for each meal

Outdoor visits are now available for all skilled nursing care, assisted living and memory care residents as well as independent living residents who plan their own arrangements. These visits offer opportunities for residents in all settings to spend time with loved ones.

To ensure enjoyable and safe gatherings, please

- Plan your visits in the areas designated for a resident's level of living
- Honor all screening requirements before your visit
- Schedule visits with skilled nursing care and assisted living residents by calling Mary DePaola at 708-326-2305

Outdoor entertainment features music, bean bag games and a future car show for residents. Our intention to is bring more variety of experiences to residents, especially as the weather cooperates with our plans.

We are very grateful to all residents who properly wear their masks to all gatherings and observe our protocols to ensure their safety.

Zoom meetings for families

For all of us, communication is key to building confidence in our reopening plans as well as mutual trust to ensure the safety of our residents, our staff members and their families.

So we are in the process of planning a series of evening Zoom meetings for families of independent living and of assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care settings. Please look for details in next week's letter.

IDPH regulations affecting current practices here

In accordance with IDPH guidelines, Smith Crossing will

- Conduct testing every seven days for all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents and employees, who have never tested positive, until our community achieves minimum of 28 consecutive days with no new cases of COVID-19 among residents
- Allow compassionate care visits to include residents whose health status has sharply declined and those residents whose close relative or friend 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 so we can conduct contact tracing

As we see 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 in all common areas and while interacting with each other
- 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

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 for reopening more areas of our campus. We also 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.

Today, it was announced that Wisconsin and Nebraska were removed from this list and Kansas and Iowa, removed last week, were added back to this list.

Learn more at <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>

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

Please know how much we appreciate your cooperation when we sometimes must change programs and amenities that are in place. These changes are motivated by our mutual goal to keep your safety as our highest priority.

As a community, we protect one another by following these frequently changing directives as we advance toward a time when we can return to daily life as we have known and cherished it.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director