



September 1, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

For the last six days, Will County's positivity rate has exceeded eight percent. Last week, Governor JB Pritzker announced restrictions due to the increased number of cases in Illinois' Region 7, the broader community where Smith Crossing is located. Unfortunately, this upward trend continues.

We concur that taking more precautions is important because our staff members and visitors might encounter many situations that may expose them to the virus.

Smith Crossing currently is designated as a CMS Phase One community required to follow Tier One mitigation for a minimum of 14 days starting on Wednesday, August 26. Smith Crossing continues to observe all the Tier One guidelines for assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents there are—no outdoor visits, salon services or events led by non-staff members—until Will County's positivity rate is 6.5 percent.

### ***Open communication essential***

Please join our first family Zoom meeting beginning at 6pm this Thursday. Visit <https://zoom.us/j/94951071643?pwd=ZExlODlHbS82WkdWREJZSnU5WWpiUT09>.

### ***Three essential easy-to-follow precautions***

Now, it is more important than ever for all residents 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

### ***Daily life at Smith Crossing continues***

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.
  - Instead of the Dining Room, please use the tented outdoor terrace set for 25 percent of seating capacity to comply with six-foot social distancing
  - For the Bistro, grab-and-go breakfast and lunch are available with outdoor seating options

- For our weekly Happy Hour, libations will be served on our Terrace on 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

**According to IDPH and CMS Phase One criteria, all outdoor visits continue to be suspended for all skilled nursing care, assisted living and memory care residents.** Please contact Mary DePaola at 708-326-2305 to schedule virtual visits with these residents.

Independent living residents can still plan their own outdoor visits when they comply with these newest guidelines

- Limit all visitors to two 18-years and older from the same household
- 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

### ***Commitment to safety precautions***

In addition to following all the restrictions by the Will County Department of Public Health, we require employees, residents and prospective visitors, who visit States and Territories designated as hot spots due to their increased number of new cases of COVID-19 by the City of Chicago, to self-quarantine for 14 days. Chicago updates this list on Tuesdays.

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 ask you to find comfort by watching televised religious services instead of attending services at your place of worship. We strongly discourage residents going to a restaurant or to family's home.

## ***Testing***

In accordance with Will County and IDPH guidelines, Smith Crossing will conduct testing every seven days for all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents and for all employees, who have never tested positive, until our community achieves minimum of 28 consecutive days with no new cases of COVID-19 among residents and staff members.

Last week, we tested 272 assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents, employees and third-party providers. Only one employee received a positive test result and is now quarantined at home to recuperate.

Today, we are administering 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 be tested, Smith Crossing makes tests available to independent living residents on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Anyone interested should contact Amie Kamba at extension 2329.

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.

## ***Please share your ideas***

Please write to [COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org) so our senior staff member, who monitors this inbox, will direct your questions, ideas and suggestions to our appropriate colleague who will respond to you.

Please know how much we appreciate your cooperation as we adjust to the current circumstances in Illinois Region 7. While they may be tough to follow, these changes help achieve our shared goal to keep residents' and employees' safety as our highest priority.

Sincerely,

*Amanda Mauceri*

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Executive Director

PS *Help us spread cheer!* Join Smith Crossing's car parade on Sunday, September 13, to honor all grandparents who live here. We'll line up at 1pm in The Horton Group's parking lot just, east of our campus, before heading to our campus.