



September 8, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

Will County's positivity rate still exceeds eight percent. So we ask visitors and staff members to be extra mindful about following the basic precautions we have instituted to protect our Smith Crossing family.

If there are no new cases of the virus on or before Wednesday, September 23, we can resume outdoor visits for skilled nursing care, assisted living and memory care residents. Please contact Mary DePaola at 708-326-2305 to schedule virtual visits until we can plan in-person ones for these residents.

And when Will County's positivity rate is 6.5 percent and Smith Crossing qualifies for CMS Phase Three, we can reopen the salons in our healthcare wing and host outdoor events with entertainers for residents who live in these levels of care.

### ***Three 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 as well as when traveling in a car with family and others
- 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

Smith Crossing employees follow these and several more stringent practices published by Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and Will and Illinois Departments of Public Health.

### ***Grandparents Day parade on Sunday, September 13***

For everyone gathering at 12:45pm in The Horton Group's parking lot along Orland Parkway just east of our campus, please be sure you not only bring your cheerful spirit and wonderfully decorated vehicles but also face masks for everyone in your car. We appreciate your being mindful of social distancing and using hand sanitizer too.

### ***Testing***

During the last week, Smith Crossing tested 99 residents and 171 staff members. All 270 received negative results.

In accordance with Will County and IDPH guidelines, we continue to test residents in assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care as well as those work in these areas on Tuesday afternoons. Independent living residents also can be tested if they like.

### ***Social activities***

We are pleased to see more and more residents take advantage of our variety of dining options for independent living residents. And all other residents enjoying a sense of community during mealtimes in their dining rooms.

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

- Limit all visitors to two people 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 encourage all residents only leave our campus for necessary medical appointments. We ask you to watch televised religious services instead of attending your place of worship, and discourage visits to restaurants and family homes.

### ***Recording of Zoom meeting, other information***

We apologize for technical problems with our first Zoom meeting for families. We are refining our process for monthly virtual meetings.

Please request a recording of that meeting by sending an email to [COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org). Also, send your suggestions and questions to that email so the appropriate staff member can respond to you.

While it is difficult to accept so many restrictions, we share the goal of keeping our Smith Crossing family safe.

Very truly yours,

*Amanda Mauceri*

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Executive Director