



October 20, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

As you know from today's news, Will County has reported an 8.6 percent positivity rate, exceeding Region 7's highest rate reported in late August.

As Will County's positivity rate continues to escalate—significantly exceeding the State's 6.5 percent positivity capitation rate—our County has reached a warning level most likely to precipitate additional restrictions. Some of Will County's region-wide requirements most likely will affect daily life here.

Since October 9 due to positive test results for two employees, Smith Crossing has been assigned to the most restrictive status according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. If there are no new cases of COVID-19 among residents and employees, our status will be upgraded on Tuesday, November 3.

For several months experts have predicted a significant upward trend regarding the number of people contracting COVID-19 during fall and winter months. We are grateful that our community is not currently experiencing a spike in cases among residents and staff members. Still, we must be mindful of the threat that the prevalence of the virus in the surrounding area can be to members of our community because some of our residents are among those most vulnerable.

With your sustained collaboration, our top priority is to keep our Smith Crossing family as safe as possible. Evidence that our precautions make a difference is that fact that all 326 residents and staff members who were tested for the virus during the week of October 12 received a negative result.

At times like this, we can experience tension between doing our best to protect all of us and pursuing our yearning to return to the vibrant social life we cherish at Smith Crossing. Because there clearly is uncertainty of what holiday season will be like this year, I encourage each of us to adopt a mindset of living a day at a time as we navigate an ever-changing world.

While our community has instituted numerous protocols and practices to mitigate the spread of the virus, we also are creating new ways to safely reintroduce amenities and programs to reunite residents and their families.

Current opportunities for being together

Even with our status, assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents can plan outdoor visits with their families. This week, we are adding a second protected visiting area near the assisted living patio. Please call Mary DePaula at 708-326-2305 to schedule visits.

While we are waiting for the new tent roof and sides to arrive, independent living residents can schedule their own visits in the parlor, immediately inside the main entrance, by calling the Receptionist at extension 2300.

Residents in all areas of our community continue to enjoy modified communal dining and limited small group activities and programs, socially

distanced. The salon in the independent living wing remains open but the two in healthcare wings are closed at this time.

Easy-to-follow precautions

We thank everyone for thoughtfully adhering to our precautions to abate the spread of the virus that include

- Wearing a mask, observing social distancing at all times, and following hand-hygiene and sanitation practices
- Following our current visitor guidelines including but not limited to
 - Scheduling one weekly visit between 10am and 7pm
 - Planning only two people from the same household for a single visit
 - Being screened when signing a visitation form at arrival
 - Going directly to the designated area to meet a resident
 - Not eating or drinking during any visit
 - Reporting any symptoms of COVID-19 experienced within 72 hours of a visit at Smith Crossing
- Quarantining for 14 days if an employee, resident and prospective visitor has visited any hot spot designated every Tuesday by the City of Chicago

Testing continues according Will County and IDPH regulations

In accordance with Will County and IDPH guidelines, Smith Crossing will conduct testing every Tuesday for all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents and for all employees.

Due to the growing number of cases in the County, we encourage independent living residents, who are not required to be tested, to schedule a test on any Tuesday afternoon between 1 and 4pm. No reservations required. We are heartened to see so many residents take advantage of being tested right on our campus.

Voting

Smith Crossing is committed to ensuring all residents who want to vote have their vote counted. If healthcare residents have not already secured and submitted an absentee ballot or voted by mail, please call the Receptionist at extension 2331 to request one. Return all completed ballots no later than Monday, November 2, so Smith Crossing can deliver them to one of the drop boxes designated in Orland Park.

Smith Crossing also will provide safe transportation for independent living residents who opt to vote in person on Tuesday, November 3. Please call the Receptionist at extension 2300 to request a ride.

Smith Crossing staff news

I am pleased to share news about some of our staff members

- **Pam Franckowiak**, whom many of you know as a Receptionist, has been promoted to Smith Crossing's concierge. In addition to serving as residents go-to answer woman, Pam will oversee our team of Receptionists and our newly installed digital bulletin boards posting a variety of news and helpful information throughout our common areas and on residents TV sets.
- **Mary DePaula** has moved to the office immediately adjacent to the IL elevator lobby to be more accessible to all residents.

- **Steve Trayes** has moved to the office next to the AL Reception Desk so it's easier for residents to stop and ask for maintenance assistance.
- **Teresa Floyd, RN**, who has returned from a leave, is welcomed home by assisted living residents and their families.

Please share your ideas

Please write to COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org so our senior staff member can ask our appropriate colleague who will respond to you.

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

Amanda Mauceri

Executive Director