



November 3, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

With great sadness and fond memories, we share the passing of the assisted living resident who entered the hospital last week for another reason and tested positive for COVID-19. Please honor the privacy of this person by observing all HIPAA regulations.

Will County's positivity rate continues to spike. On Monday, November 2, it rose to 11.4 percent, up from 9.6 percent last Tuesday. As a point of comparison, our Region 7's first surge of COVID-19 during August peaked at a positivity rate of 8.6 percent. On Monday, we also have learned that Silver Cross Hospital currently is treating 72 patients with COVID-19 and has suspended all visits.

Last Friday, October 30, we tested all healthcare residents as a precaution because we had reported on the day prior that six employees tested positive for the virus. I am grateful to report all 130 assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents received negative test results on Monday, November 1.

On Tuesday, October 27, Smith Crossing conducted weekly testing for 296 people. All 107 residents and all 14 third-party providers received negative results. Of the 175 employees tested, 169 received negative outcomes.

The two most recent test reports for employees—shared with you on October 30 and just received late on Monday—increased our count for those with positive results during the last four days to seven, from six. This newest finding is for one more Environmental Services staff member, who last worked only in hallways on Sunday, November 1. This individual, who now has symptoms, is recovering at home.

We think it may be helpful for you to have a summary of all 14 positive cases for staff members by department for whom we received positive test results during the month of October. Some employees have returned to work in accordance with CDC guidelines and some are recuperating at home

- Three CNAs
- Eight Dining Services employees

- Three EVS staff members

Please honor the privacy of these individuals by complying with all HIPPA guidelines.

### ***Communal activities***

We ask you to conform with all the following precautions to protect residents and employees.

### ***For independent living residents***

- Family compassionate care visits must be approved by Amie Kamba at extension 2329 or me at extension 2326
- The Dining Room is closed
- Grab-and-go meals are available at the Bistro and the Dining Room
- Dinner is delivered upon request by calling extension 2317
- The Oak Room is now closed
- Some small group activities, listed on Channel 3 and flat screens in common areas, remain open on a limited basis

### ***For assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents***

- Even with our current restrictive status, residents can plan outdoor visits with their families in protected visiting booths near the assisted living patio
- Call the number assigned to a resident's level of living to reserve a time
  - Assisted living and memory care, 708-326-2427
  - Skilled nursing care and transitional care unit, 708-326-2331
  - Greenleaf Rehab, 708-694-6000
- We are delivering breakfast, lunch and dinner to residents
- All small group activities are cancelled
- Our staff members are more frequently visiting with residents in their apartments to encourage exercise as well as social interaction
- We have increased the variety of programs available on Channel 3

### ***Testing continues according Will County and IDPH regulations***

Today, in accordance with Will County and IDPH guidelines, we again conduct mandatory testing for all employees and for all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents.

Because the number of cases still is surging in Will County, we encourage independent living residents, who are not required to be tested, to take a test on any Tuesday afternoon between 1 and 4pm. No reservations are required.

***Essential precautions can make a difference***

Smith Crossing requires everyone in our community to follow these basic practices 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 including using supplies provided to disinfect the visitation area
- 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

***Please share your ideas***

Please write to [COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org) so our senior staff member can ask our appropriate colleague who will respond to you.

While news of more cases in our community as well as in our entire Region is discouraging, let us create ways to unite as we strive to make the well-being of each other our shared goal. I believe we find strength in belonging to a community of people who care about each other.

Very truly yours,

*Amanda Mauceri*

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Executive Director