



November 10, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

We have good news about the assisted living resident, whom we reported on Sunday had received a positive test result for the virus. On Monday, we learned this individual does not have the virus. A negative result for a test taken here on Tuesday, November 3, confirmed her virus-free status.

Last week during an ER visit for a matter unrelated to COVID-19, the hospital followed its relatively new protocol of identifying a patient as living in a congregate setting. On Monday, Bill conferred with the hospital staff to clarify its process and what had been posted in the patient record sent to us. He discovered no test was administered. Today, our resident will take a rapid test here because the hospital had not conducted a test.

### ***Testing update***

With this news, we are confirming Smith Crossing received only negative results for 269 residents and employees and only three, not four, positive outcomes for 299 residents and employees tested here on November 3.

This morning, because they were experiencing mild symptoms, we quickly tested two independent living residents and results for both were positive.

Here is an update for the five people who now are recuperating in their homes

- Three independent living resident with mild symptoms
- One CNA who worked in Greenleaf Rehab
- One Life Enrichment who assisted healthcare residents

Twelve of 14 employees with positive results during October have returned to work in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Today, all employees and all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents receive mandatory tests. And with this recent surge in Will County, we strongly encourage independent living residents, who are not required to be tested, to take a test on Wednesday, November 11, between 1 and 3pm in The Oak Room.

### ***Region 7 moves to Tier 2***

Will County's positivity rate continues to spike. On Monday, November 9, the rate increased to 16.4 percent, up from 11.4 percent last Tuesday. This rapid rise puts our Region into Tier 2 with tighter mitigation protocols.

Some residents have expressed concern about how this spike might affect our staff's ability to support all Smith Crossing's services and programs. Please be confident that we already augmented our cross-training plan for employees in several departments which we put in place last spring.

Today, Governor JB Pritzker announced 12,623 new cases of COVID-19, making Tuesday the fifth consecutive day new cases exceeded 10,000. He further stated that Illinois' seven-day positivity rate rose to 12.0 percent, up from 10.6 percent on Sunday.

Because these sustained surges cause all of us to be concerned, we are slightly modifying a few of our communal activities to comply abate the advancement of the virus in our community.

***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 closed
- The Salon remains open for now because social distancing and other precautions are being followed
- All small group activities are now limited to 10 or fewer people no matter the size of the room in which they convene; check Channel 3 and flat screens in common areas to confirm which activities remain open on a limited basis

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

- During the last week, 10 of 13 guests arrived very late and disrupted plans the next scheduled visit immediately following theirs as well as delayed managing our safety precaution; if a visit starts late, it still will conclude at the designated time
- With our current restrictive status, residents and their families are allowed to plan outdoor visits in 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

***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

***Your place reserved for vaccine***

Even though specific information about the selection and distribution of reliable vaccines is not yet available, we have enrolled Smith Crossing in the Federal registry to reserve a priority place for our residents and employees when one or more vaccines become available.

***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*

Amanda Mauceri  
Executive Director

PS On a personal note, I thought you might appreciate knowing that I am working remotely because a member of my family was exposed to the virus during a visit to a hospital's emergency room. While my schedule is the same as when I am on campus, please contact Bill Jansma, our healthcare administrator, at extension 2345 regarding any requests he can handle onsite for you.