



November 17, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

This afternoon, Governor JB Pritzker announced the entire State of Illinois will move to Tier 3, the most restrictive status for gatherings, effective Friday, November 20.

We are working now to ascertain how this change will affect daily life at Smith Crossing and will issue guidelines no later than Friday morning. Then we also will share a sneak preview of a bountiful Thanksgiving Day dinner served here.

Will County's surge motivates us to do more here

Today, Will County's positivity rate spiked to a 20.3 percent, up from 16.4 percent seven days ago. Because the new number of cases are rising, Smith Crossing will administer tests more frequently to protect everyone even though they are not mandated in Will County.

This afternoon, Governor JB Pritzker announced 12,623 new cases of COVID-19, making Tuesday the eleventh 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.

Starting today, all employees and all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents will be tested twice a week between noon and 3pm on Tuesdays and Fridays at locations to be announced. We also recommend that independent living residents, who are not required to be tested, to consider taking a test. If interested, they should call Amie Kamba at extension 2329.

Update on test results

On Monday, we learned two housekeepers tested positive for COVID-19. One, with mild symptoms, last worked in our assisted living wing on Friday, November 13; the other, who is asymptomatic, worked in Greenleaf Rehab yesterday and left our campus as soon as test results were available.

Both are recuperating at home and only will return to work in accordance with CDC guidelines. Please respect their privacy as well as the privacy of everyone recuperating from the virus by following HIPAA standards.

Follow current plans for residents

All residents must properly wear their mask when any staff member enters their apartment or villa for any reason.

Because these sustained spikes cause concern, we already had slightly modified a few communal activities to abate the virus' spread here. Please know we are likely to make a few more changes starting this coming Friday.

For independent living residents

- Family compassionate care visits must be approved by Amie Kamba at extension 2329
- 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 is closed
- 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

- Until 5pm on Thursday, November 19, 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

Make a difference by following precautions

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
- Quarantining for 14 days if an employee, resident and prospective visitor has visited any hot spot designated every Tuesday by the City of Chicago

Stay in touch with us

During this period of rapidly changing guidelines, we encourage you to write to COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org so our senior staff member can ask our appropriate colleague who will respond to you.

We continue to commit to best practices in response to the unrelenting advancement of COVID-19 in Region 7. Let us call upon our collective resilience to cope with changes we must embrace until the positivity rate all around us decreases.

Very truly yours,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director