



December 1, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

For today's letter, I summarize the occurrences of COVID-19 in our community during the month of November as well as provide a report on the status of everyone's recovery. In addition, I am sharing more preliminary information about the CDC's plan to administer vaccines for the virus on our campus.

Test results from last week, plan for this week

During the week of November 22, Smith Crossing administered 557 tests including employees and third-party caregivers tested twice weekly and residents in all settings.

As of this afternoon, we have received all reports for last week's tests including a new report of a positive outcome for one rehab resident who was tested on Friday, November 27. This person has mild symptoms and has been quarantined since admission. We have moved this resident to our COVID-19 recovery unit as a way to contain exposure for others and to facilitate any care for those who may need support. Please respect this person's privacy by observing all HIPAA rules.

Again this week, all employees are being tested twice weekly including today and on Friday, December 4, between 1 and 4pm in the Independent Living Dining Room. All assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents are tested in their apartments on the same two days. Independent living residents who would like to be tested, although they are not required to do so, should call Amie Kamba at extension 2329.

Review of positive cases during November

As you know from reading our timely advisories distributed when we receive notification of new cases, 13 residents and 15 staff members tested positive for COVID-19 last month including

- Six independent living residents
- Four assisted living residents
- Two short-term stay rehab residents
- One skilled nursing care resident
- One member of our administrative team
- Four staff working in Dining Services
- One Fitness Center staff member
- Two housekeepers
- One IT specialist
- Two Life Enrichment employees
- Three members of our nursing team

Four residents are still recovering from the virus, and the period of quarantine for the other nine has concluded. Thirteen staff members have returned to work in accordance with CDC guidelines and two are still recuperating at home.

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 12,542 new cases of confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19, more than double the 6,190 new cases logged on Monday. Governor JB Pritzker also underscored serious concern about the increase in hospitalizations and indicated, in consultation with Dr. Anthony Fauci, it is likely he and Mayor Lori Lightfoot will extend the current

stay-at-home advisory. The positivity rate for Region 7 again dipped slightly to 17.0 percent, but remains well above an acceptable rate.

Plan for vaccinations

As you know from news reports, there is tremendous progress in advancing the availability of vaccines and Smith Crossing already had registered with the federal government to confirm our community is a high priority.

Last Tuesday, we learned that the CDC has authorized Walgreens to be our provider for both residents and staff members. We have begun the initial planning process to confirm how Walgreens will handle all facets of our community's immunization process and will share more information as it becomes available.

Walgreens pharmacy will be responsible for

- Educating all of us about the vaccines
- Registering us to receive them
- Ordering and transporting the vaccines which require special ultra-cold storage and handling
- Providing trained Walgreens staff members to administer inoculations on our campus as well as the syringes and other supplies
- Removing all used materials from our campus
- Handling paperwork for billing, and filing our report to the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control
- Advising us when the time is right for the second dose of a vaccine and managing that process as well

Continue to exercise precautions

All residents must

- Wear a face mask—covering both nose and mouth—when leaving their home and when any employee enters their apartment for any reason
- Observe six-foot social distancing in hallways and during any small gatherings
- Wash their hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer provided at stations throughout our building
- Self-quarantine if they have visited any hot spot designated on Tuesdays by the City of Chicago

All visitors are expected to comply with all these practices and to arrive wearing a mask before they are allowed to enter Smith Crossing.

To improve airflow, residents can set the thermostat in their apartment to “fan” instead of “auto.” We also installed industrial-strength HEPA air filters in assisted living common areas.

System for deliveries

We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we manage the influx of deliveries so we can make sure all packages arrive at their final destination. Families delivering groceries and other packages should drive to our main entrance between 11am and 2pm from Monday through Friday. Residents can Smith Crossing's cart to pick-up their deliveries. Please do not leave packages at any other entrances or in stairwells even if you asked a resident to get them.

Emilie's Store steps up

Essential personal care items now can be purchased at Emilie's Store. Use the order form available at the Reception Desk which also was distributed in mailboxes. All purchases will be delivered between 12 and 2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and charged to residents' monthly statements. Please call Pam Franckowiak at extension 2313 for any emergency needs.

Current practices affecting daily life

Here are more specifics about other precautions temporarily in place

For assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents

- All outdoor and indoor visits in our licensed areas are suspended
- Still allowed are visits by essential caregivers and families spending compassionate care time here
- We are delivering breakfast, lunch and dinner to residents
- We cancelled all small group activities and closed the salon
- Our staff is more frequently visiting with residents in their apartments
- We increased the variety of programs, including informative and entertaining broadcasts, now available on Channel 3
- We introduced activities in hallways so residents can enjoy ways of being together while observing social distancing

For independent living residents

- We continue to offer 45-minute lobby visits when scheduled with the Receptionist
- Family compassionate care visits must be approved by Amie Kamba at extension 2329
- While we closed seating in the Dining Room
 - Grab-and-go meals are available at the Bistro and the Dining Room
 - Dinner is delivered upon request by calling extension 2317
- We have closed The Oak Room and the Salon
- Emilie's Store remains closed to shoppers but now offer deliveries for essential items
- We have suspended all programs except live broadcasts on Channel 36

Take care of yourself and others

Please be sure you are following all the directives issued by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health.

Please be mindful of any symptoms of COVID-19 you might experience

- Fever of 100° or higher or a fever above your typical baseline
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

If you think you are experiencing one or more symptoms of COVID-19

- Limit your interactions with others
- Residents should contact me Amie Kamba at extension 2329 so she can expedite testing for you here
- Visitors, please stay home

Communication is key

With recent changes and more likely soon, please send your questions and suggestions to COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org. A senior staff member, who monitors your messages, will ask the appropriate Smith Crossing employee to respond directly to you.

We truly value the resilient spirit of everyone at Smith Crossing as we stay the course and collaborate to combat this virus.

Gratefully,

Very truly yours,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director