



December 29, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

Our hope to harness the impact of COVID-19 moved closer to reality yesterday when Walgreens confirmed Thursday, January 7, 2021, is Smith Crossing's first clinic day for 285 resident and 139 staff members. Next Thursday, all will receive their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine here.

Walgreens also will be on our campus on Thursday, January 28, and Thursday, February 18, to complete the two-dose vaccination protocol for those who are inoculated next Thursday as well as to administer both doses to those who were not available or living or working at Smith Crossing on January 7.

At this time, there is no COVID-19 on our campus. Arming ourselves with this vaccine is a very meaningful way to abate the spread of the virus within our Smith Crossing community and beyond.

If you have yet to confirm your participation, there is still time to do so today and tomorrow by completing a consent form. Residents who have any questions—from completing their consent form using DocuSign® to asking about allergies—should contact me. And staff members should reach out to Karen Jellema.

Testing this week

Today between 1 and 4pm, we administered COVID-19 tests to all employees in the Bistro and all healthcare residents in their homes here. Everyone received a negative test result today.

Next week, Smith Crossing will conduct bi-weekly testing for all staff members on Monday and Friday, January 4 and 8, 2021. All assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents will be tested on one of those two days.

New Year's Eve

Our dining staff has created a specialty drink for a toast to ring in a promising 2021 led by saxophonist Ray Forlenza at 4pm on Channel 36. Ray then inspires us to say "hello" to a fresh decade with an amazing performance.

On this Thursday, please call extension 2317 to reserve your specialty cocktail and plan to pick-up your beverage at the hostess station in the main dining room between 3 and 3:30pm. And there's still time to place your order for a popular charcuterie board by calling the same number. ►

Residents also can plan a virtual visit with family and friends by contacting Mary DePaola at MDePaola@SmithSeniorLiving.org or 708-326-2305 for assistance.

Illinois stays in Tier 3

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 5,644 new and probable cases of COVID-19. This represents more than 1,000 additional cases since Monday's news of 4,453 cases. On Monday, Illinois surpassed 16,000 deaths as the toll that COVID-19 has taken on our citizens and their families.

Also today, Region 7, which includes Will County, posted a positivity rate of 9.9 percent, which remains higher than Illinois' statewide rate of 7.22 percent. At this time, only 23 percent of ICU beds in our Region are available for all patients who need them for any reason.


When looking to reduce the number of restrictions, we should consider the record-breaking number of new cases in a single week—more than one million—reported nationwide last week. Just before Christmas, this data brought the total number of people infected to COVID-19 to more than 12 million.

As more people join the ranks of 112,000 already vaccinated in our State we have another reason for optimism. Decreasing positivity rates, offer a reason to be hopeful that the virus' spread is slowing in Illinois. If this downward trend is sustained, Governor JB Pritzker has stated IDPH and other experts will consider lifting some restrictions in early 2021.

At Smith Crossing all Tier 3 guidelines remain in effect.

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 have 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

Plus, assisted living residents also are encouraged to leave their apartments for exercise and trips to the mailroom as safe ways to socialize. 

For independent living residents

- We continue to offer a limited number of 45-minute lobby visits when scheduled with the Receptionist
- Guests are allowed to bring food and beverages as gifts; however, they cannot be consumed during a visit because everyone is expected to wear a mask at all times
- Family compassionate care visits must be approved by Amie Kamba at extension 2329
- While 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 and the Salon are closed, as is Emilie's Store which still offers deliveries for essential items on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon
- We have suspended all in-person programs
- We broadcast programs in real time on Channel 36

Be savvy about employing safeguards

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

We appreciate how you use COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org to communicate with us. This system makes it possible for a senior staff member to direct your questions and suggestions to the right person who will respond directly to you in a timely manner.

Together, let's put our own kind of "positivity" back into our daily lives as we chart new territory filled with enthusiasm and good health!

Wishing you and all who are dear to you a better 2021,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director