



January 5, 2021

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

Our community has moved into a new decade, one with hallmarks for reason to hope that we ultimately will be liberated from the threat of COVID-19.

More planning in-process for our first clinic day

In anticipation of Walgreens' first clinic day this Thursday to vaccinate all residents and employees, who completed their consent form, we are meeting with Walgreens representatives on Wednesday to work out the logistics for a pleasant and safe experience for everyone who participates in this week's clinic here.

Yesterday, I shared an overview and general guidelines to help you prepare for your vaccination. On Wednesday afternoon, we will distribute a specific schedule and timeline indicating when to arrive at our main dining room for your inoculation or when the Walgreens team will visit some residents in our healthcare settings. We truly appreciate your patience and flexibility with this first round; thanks to its initial experiences elsewhere Walgreens discovered some adjustments that will improve efficiencies.

Only residents and staff members who already have submitted their consent form or do so today will be inoculated. If you have not yet done so, send it directly to Bill Jansma at WJansma@SmithSeniorLiving.org or take your form to his office in Greenleaf Rehab.

Thank you for sharing some great questions about daily life at Smith Crossing for those who are properly vaccinated. Continue to send your questions to COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org. We are conferring with medical experts and plan to publish a list of questions and answers later this month. As you know, even the experts are still learning!

Testing this week, one positive result to report

On Monday, January 4, we tested a total of 241 people—106 residents, 125 staff members and 10 third-party providers—at Smith Crossing. I am very pleased to report that everyone received a negative outcome.

Our next tests for employees' bi-weekly requirement and some residents living in healthcare, who were not tested on Monday, is on Friday, January 8, between 1 and 4pm in the Bistro and in residents' apartments.



Late on Monday, we learned a server, who last worked here on Sunday, January 3, in the skilled nursing care wing, began to experience mild symptoms in the morning and decided to be tested elsewhere. This employee, who tested positive for COVID-19, is now self-quarantined at home. Our server only will return to Smith Crossing in accordance with CDC guidelines. Please respect this person's privacy by following HIPAA guidelines.

Starting the week of January 11, we will return to our regular testing schedule from 1 until 4pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Springtime can come early

Several residents have commented on how spending so much time in their homes already has them thinking about tackling a thorough spring cleaning campaign to remove clutter and to donate items they no longer want or use. Although we do not yet have a specific timeline to begin opening up Smith Crossing, thinking about getting residences ready for guests is a good idea.

Elara has offered to provide staff members, who practice all our precautions to mitigate the spread of the virus, for four hours priced at \$100.00. Please call 708-428-6524 to learn more.

Residents may want to plan a virtual visit with family and friends to show them some "treasures" they're ready to pass along before deciding to donate them. Please contact Mary DePaola at MDePaola@SmithSeniorLiving.org or 708-326-2305 to organize a virtual get-together.

Illinois stays in Tier 3

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 6,839 new and probable cases of COVID-19, up considerably from 5,059 reported on Monday. Also today, Region 7, which includes Will County, posted a seven-day rolling positivity rate of 12.1 percent, up from 10.8 percent on Monday.

Governor JB Pritzker indicated with fewer number of cases suggesting a trend that the virus' spread may be slowing, Tier 3 restrictions will remain in place for some time during January.

He also stated progress is being made as 143,000 Illinois citizens already vaccinated. He also noted the prudence of staying the current course of precautions to afford time for the vaccines to take effect—typically two weeks after receiving both inoculations—and be confident that the recent downturn in the number of cases continues. 

For now, all Tier 3 guidelines remain in effect at Smith Crossing.

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

As we step into a new year, let us carry with us a fresh sense of optimism along with the caution that has made a difference in abating the spread of COVID-19 within our community.

Very Truly Yours,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director