



January 12, 2021

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

With so much coverage about how people soon may adjust their daily life after being vaccinated against COVID-19, I thought it would be helpful to forecast what we anticipate at Smith Crossing during the next three months.

Our goal is to enliven our community with residents spending more time together, enjoying Smith Crossing's activities, amenities and programs. We balance this goal with our firm intention to not squander the sacrifices everyone has made since March 2020. So at Smith Crossing, we have begun planning with an incremental approach to reopening our campus.

Medical experts tell us it takes two or three weeks after people receive their second dose of a vaccine for it to reach its highest efficacy. Our third and final clinic slated for February 18 sets our timeline to early March for when we can begin to establish our "new normal" at Smith Crossing.

### ***Preparing for our second clinic day***

Everyone who was inoculated on January 7 must complete a second consent form to receive the required second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech on Thursday, January 28.

- Next week, families for healthcare residents should expect an email asking them to use our DocuSign system to authorize Walgreens to administer the second dose to their family member who lives here.
- Most independent living residents already have submitted their second consent form. The few who have not yet done so and those who would like to receive their first inoculation, should see Amie Kamba or ask the Receptionist for a form and put in the white box once it is completed.

Only those with consent forms completed no later than Monday, January 18, will participate in the second clinic day.

### ***Planning for our "new normal"***

Because medical experts still advise extreme caution while incidences of the virus surge, we do not want to find ourselves reinstating constraints after we have removed them. While Illinois remains subject to Tier 3 restrictions, Governor JB Pritzker's experts are studying when to remove some which will apply to us as soon as Region 7 meets their requirements. ►

Nonetheless, Smith Crossing is beginning to offer again more services and programs.

- Starting next week, we will provide limited bus service for local shopping trips for independent living residents. Look for a flyer with all the details, which I will include in my letter next Tuesday.
- On Thursday, January 14, at 4pm, tune into Channel 36 with one of our favorite entertainers Frank Rossi who will perform in Community Hall. You can expect more live entertainment here in the weeks ahead.

For now and the months ahead, it is critical for all of us to realize that the basic precautions—wear a mask; observe social distancing; practice hand-hygiene; and self-quarantine when necessary—remain our way of life even after the majority of people here have been inoculated.

### ***Complying with Illinois Tier 3***

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 6,642 new and probable cases of COVID-19, up by almost one-third from 4,776 on Monday. Also today, Region 7, which includes Will County, posted a seven-day rolling positivity rate which stayed at 11.1 percent.

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

We are pleased to see so many assisted living residents leaving 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 welcome to bring food and beverages as gifts, but food and beverages cannot be consumed during a visit
- 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

### ***Resuming regular test schedule; one positive result on Monday***

Our established testing schedule for employees and healthcare residents continues so we can mitigate the spread of COVID-19 here.

Everyone who was tested today—all employees and residents in residents in our healthcare settings—received negative results.

On Friday, January 15, between 1 and 4pm in the Bistro, we will conduct COVID-19 testing for all employees to satisfy the mandate for their bi-weekly checks. If any independent living resident would like to be tested, please contact Amie Kamba at extension 2329.

On Monday, January 11, a housekeeper, who began to experience mild symptoms associated with the virus, came to Smith Crossing for a rapid test. Our staff member received a positive result, and now is home recovering. This employee last worked in the independent living wing on Friday, January 8. Please respect this person's privacy by observing all HIPAA regulations.

I am pleased to report all negative outcomes for everyone tested on Friday, January 8, when we tested 124 staff members and 105 residents, primarily those living in our healthcare settings.

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***

Amanda Mauceri, Executive Director