



January 19, 2021

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

In response to inquiries from some residents, families and staff members, we are sharing more specific information about the success of our first clinic day on January 7. I am grateful to report that very few people had mild reactions to the vaccine, and we hope those who had taken a “wait and see” approach might reconsider their decision.

While there are valid reasons a few could not participate, 91 percent of all our residents chose to be inoculated, setting a gold standard for others.

<b>Residents</b>	<b>Number vaccinated</b>	<b>Total number of residents</b>
Independent Living	129	140
Assisted Living and Memory Support	23	23
Skilled Nursing Care	38	42

Of 240 Smith Crossing staff members, 139 or 41 percent have received their first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech, placing Smith Crossing’s workforce just above a nationwide average of 40 percent for employees of senior living communities.

Walgreens requires a fresh consent form for our second clinic day confirmed for Thursday, January 28. Our goal is to have all forms signed no later than Thursday, January 21.

- We already have signed forms from most people who participated in the first clinic in our Main Dining Room, and will contact individuals who need to complete theirs.
- Family members and POAs should look for an email this week so they can complete and return the consent form using DocuSign.
- There still is time for current and new staff members as well as new residents to register to receive their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine during our second onsite clinic on Thursday, January 28, and plan for their second dose on Thursday, February 18.

### **Testing protocols**

Today, all healthcare and four independent living residents as well as employees tested negative for COVID-19. ▶

Smith Crossing has resumed its regular schedule of testing employees on Tuesdays and Fridays between 1 and 4pm in the Bistro. We test residents in our healthcare settings in their rooms on Tuesdays. Independent living residents who would like to schedule a test should contact the Receptionist.

### ***Data and decisions will change daily life here***

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 4,318 new and probable cases of COVID-19, up from 3,385 on Monday. Some of the daily variances are due to how weekends affect the number of tests conducted and processed. Our Region 7 remains one of two in the State of Illinois designated as a Tier 3 territory. We remain optimistic as our Region's positivity rate continues to decrease to 7.5 percent today.

As you know, all of us have been living with Tier 3 restrictions, the most restrictive, since November 20. Some Regions designated by the State's COVID-19 plan will begin to ease or lift some restrictions as early as this Friday.

In anticipation, we have begun planning safe and enjoyable ways to begin to open common areas—starting most likely with dining rooms and some small group activities—in the springtime. One of our primary benchmarks for doing so will be approximately two or three weeks after February 18, our third and final clinic day for administering the vaccine at Smith Crossing.

As we hope to move soon to Tier 2, we welcome the opportunity to reopen portions of our campus, but balance the enjoyment of those experiences with the fact today the United States has surpassed 400,000 deaths caused by COVID-19. So we must continue to employ basic precautions—wear a mask; observe social distancing; practice hand-hygiene; and self-quarantine when necessary—even after the majority of people here have been inoculated.

Currently, we offer a mix of virtual and in-person programs. Please check your daily calendars for details. 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**

- Our bus now takes residents on shopping trips: Thursday, January 21, at 1pm to the Dollar Store; Tuesday, January 26, at 10am to Jewel; and Thursday, January 28 at 1pm to Target.
- 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

Please continue to act prudently so all of us are safe. And send your questions and suggestions to [COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org) so we can arrange for the best staff member to respond quickly to you.

Sincerely,

*Amanda Mauceri*

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Executive Director