



January 26, 2021

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

We are charting the course for our community's emergence from enduring a sequestered lifestyle mandated by the real threat of COVID-19. Our initial plan provides ways to offer fresh experiences of our Smith Crossing lifestyle.

Let us pause and remember this past Sunday, January 24, was the first anniversary of Illinois' first case of COVID-19. Together, we navigated an unprecedented challenge with so many unknowns.

Now, the time is right to move forward. While doing so, fidelity to balancing our twin goals—protecting the well-being of everyone and providing ways to enjoy what makes living in our community so appealing and energizing—remains paramount.

Hooray!

We are encouraged to proceed because our campus currently has no active cases of the virus. And we believe with more than 90 percent of residents receiving their second inoculation of Pfizer-BioNTech at this Thursday's clinic Smith Crossing's ambitious reopening plan with in-person visits and a variety of engaging activities can begin during a series of days starting with

- Friday, February 5, for families with residents in healthcare settings to schedule 45-minute visits in our outdoor booths
- Monday, February 8, for all residents to join group activities limited to 10 people
- Tuesday, February 9, for rehab and skilled nursing care residents to dine together; for independent living residents' salon, spa and fitness center to reopen; and for IL residents to sign-up for a shopping trip to CVS
- Thursday, February 11, for independent living residents to invite visitors to their apartments and villas; residents also can make as many as two reservations for 4:15 and 5:15pm seatings on Monday through Saturday and for a shopping trip to Aldi
- Friday, February 12, for assisted living and memory care resident to dine together and Emilie's Store reopens
- Sunday, February 14, just in time for Valentine's Day, Smith Crossing will begin serving its popular Brunch from 11am until 4pm in the Main Dining Room
- Tuesday, February 16, announce schedule for community bus trips with destinations of a casino, movie theater and restaurant

For all these opportunities to enjoy each other’s company, we ask you to be mindful of others by

- Following the basics precautions—screening, mask, six-feet social distancing, hand-hygiene and quarantining if returning from a hot spot—protect ourselves and each other
- Reserving your place in the dining room for twice a week with the Receptionist at the front desk
- Signing-up for no more than five activities and programs during a week

Residents, please check our flyers for more details about making reservations for visits and dining as well as joining on-campus activities and bus trips.

Family members, please call 708-326-2331 to make reservations for visits in booths adjacent to our healthcare wing.

We also remind families and friends, who are returning to our campus after more than two months, that Smith Crossing staff members and residents follow all HIPAA regulations to honor the privacy of everyone regarding any matters related to their health. For instance, questions about getting vaccinated and other well-intentioned expressions of concern are not acceptable when talking with residents and employees.

Second clinic day, testing updates and new schedule

For Smith Crossing’s second clinic day in the main dining room on Thursday, January 28, independent living residents and employees should follow the same protocol and schedule.

- Employees and third-party providers should arrive for their inoculation between 9 and 11am

All employees will be tested for COVID-19 between 9 and 11am on Thursday, January 28, at a separate station during our second clinic in the main dining room. Staff members not scheduled for a vaccination should indicate their status when they arrive to be tested. Paired with last Friday’s tests for employees fulfills our bi-weekly testing requirement.

- Independent living residents should arrive according to their family name

If your family name begins with ...arrive between	
A to F	11am and 12pm
G to L	12pm and 1pm
M to R	1pm and 2pm
S to Z	2pm and 3pm



Also on Thursday, two Smith Crossing nurses will conduct tests for the virus when they accompany Walgreens' team inoculating healthcare residents as they wait in the doorways to their rooms.

Any independent living residents who wish to be tested, should contact Amie Kamba at extension 2329.

During the week of January 18, Smith Crossing tested 114 residents as well as 123 staff members and 14 other providers. **All received negative results.**

Trending to fewer cases in Illinois

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 3,667 new and probable cases of COVID-19, up from 2,944 on Monday. Some daily variances are due to how weekends affect the number of tests conducted and processed. Yesterday, IDPH reported its statewide daily positivity rate of 3.7 percent—the lowest rate since October 19, when 3,519 new cases were reported.

Tier 3 restrictions, which were in place since November 20, have been lifted for all 11 Regions across Illinois. Our Region 7 has advanced to Tier 1 mitigations which guide the plans we have outlined at the beginning of my letter. Will County's positivity rate rose to 7.4 percent and continues to hover around that number.

We also should be vigilant about an increase in cases caused by variants of the virus, which numbered eight in Illinois on Monday. Scientists and medical experts indicate the current vaccines can guard against these new variants as well.

Guidelines for a happy transition

From until the dates listed on the first page of this letter, please continue to follow our current precautions and to take advantage of our current programs including those

For assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents

- All outdoor and indoor visits in our licensed areas are suspended
 - Visits by essential caregivers and families for compassionate care
 - Breakfast, lunch, and dinner delivered to residents
 - All small group activities and salon closed
 - More frequent by staff with residents in their apartments
 - An increased the variety of programs, including informative and entertaining broadcasts on Channel 3
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- Activities and exercise sessions in hallways so residents can enjoy ways of being together while observing social distancing
- Trips to the mailroom

Independent living residents can plan for

- Bus shopping trips: Thursday, January 28, at 1pm to Target; Tuesday, February 2, at 10am to Walgreens; and Thursday, February 4, at 1pm to Trader Joe's
- Limited number of 45-minute lobby visits when scheduled with the Receptionist
- Family compassionate care visits 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

As we approach the first of several milestones on the road to experiencing daily life—as we know and love it—at Smith Crossing, please do not let up your guard. Now, more than ever, act prudently so all of us are safe.

Send your questions to COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org so we can arrange for the best staff member to respond quickly to you. And, of course, as we carefully reopen so many places and programs here, please send your suggestions to ensure everyone can enjoy being part of our community.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mauceri

Amanda Mauceri
Executive Director