



February 2, 2021

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

We are no longer restricted by Tiered mitigation. During a series of 14-day waiting periods, we can advance to reopening even more places and programs for residents if there are no major outbreak of the virus among our residents living in healthcare settings. During March, our goal is to make it possible for residents to relish more of everyday life here.

Your great response being vaccinated sets the stage

Our community's tremendous response to being vaccinated against COVID-19 is a testament to our collective will to make choices that not only protect ourselves but also consider the well-being of others. The most recent good news from experts is that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine also protects us against the three new variants of the virus now in the United States. Still, everyone must wear a mask and observe Smith Crossing's other established precautions when they are on our campus.

Last Thursday, 494 people participated in our second clinic, including 329 current and future residents as well as a total of 165 employees, third-party providers, a few volunteers and members of the Mokena Fire Department. Four hundred received their second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech; 94, their first inoculation.

Our final and third clinic is confirmed for Thursday morning, February 18, for those still needing a second vaccination. Early next week, we will email new consent forms via DocuSign to some family members and POAs. Please return them no later than Friday, February 12.

Changes in our testing practices

Today, two independent living residents requested rapid testing for COVID-19. One resident was experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 and the other resident, who is asymptomatic, was exposed to someone with the virus. Both tested positive and now are quarantined in their apartment to recuperate. Please respect the privacy and that of anyone coping with healthcare challenges by observing HIPAA rules.

Through contact tracing, we identified and tested a third resident whose result was negative. Any independent living residents who wishes to be tested should contact Amie Kamba at extension 2329.



Also today we return to weekly, instead of bi-weekly, testing for all employees and continue weekly testing for residents in our healthcare settings. Will County Department of Public Health has directed us to again use PCR tests, which require lab processing. We expect to report outcomes of mandated tests by the end of each week. Of course, we will continue to use rapid tests for individuals who report the onset of symptoms associated with the virus.

When Smith Crossing achieves 28 consecutive days without a new case of COVID-19, assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents will be tested monthly on Tuesdays.

More programs and activities, dining rooms reopen this month

As you read in my letter last Tuesday, this week marks the first phase of returning to our Smith Crossing way of life.

- ***Independent and assisted living residents***, please tune into Channel 3 to see the daily agendas and weekly calendars for activities and bus trips.
- ***All residents***, learn about menus and special offerings such as special appetizers for this Sunday's Super Bowl LV by viewing Channel 4.
- ***Families and friends who registered to receive emails***, [click here](#) to view this week's schedule for independent living residents.

Starting this week, we will serve meals in dining rooms only for residents, and limit seatings to 25 people. Everyone must follow all basic precautions, and we ask residents to "take your turn" so everyone can socialize over meals.

Because independent living residents most likely only can make reservations two or three times a week, Smith Crossing continues its grab-and-go and no charge for deliveries for meals.

Starting this Sunday, the Bistro will serve breakfast between 7:45 and 10am so our servers can take orders for the brunch in the main dining room from 11am until 4pm.

Visitors for independent living residents no longer need to make reservations and may proceed to a resident's apartment after they are screened. Starting this Friday, families of healthcare residents can plan visits in our protected outdoor booths. And we continue to assist with scheduling virtual visits.



Decrease in incidences of COVID-19

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 2,304 new and probable cases of COVID-19, close to the 2,312 reported yesterday.

Also today, Will County's positivity rate fell to 6.1 percent. Yesterday, Region 7 including Will County moved to Phase 4 which allows Smith Crossing opportunities to open more indoor places.

We share your anticipation and excitement as we collaborate to revitalize our community lifestyle at Smith Crossing. Let us continue to be prudent and savvy about protecting all the progress we have made too.

I also ask you to take a moment to reflect on how residents, staff members, third-party providers and their families have demonstrated their heartfelt commitment to community through their sacrifices and responsiveness to numerous changes in our protocols since March of 2020. We recognize your valor during this unprecedented time and thank you for your cooperation as we move forward.

Please send your questions to COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org so we can ask a staff member to respond quickly to you. We also are eager to learn your observations and suggestions as we reopen places and programs here.

Gratefully,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director