



February 9, 2021

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

For the first time since November 20, 2020, Region 7, which includes Will County, has returned to Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan. The State's positivity rate has dropped to its lowest point since October 6, 2020, and Will County's positivity rate has decreased to 5 percent today. Other metrics—an increase in ICU bed availability and a decrease number of people hospitalized with COVID-19—also are factors.

Dining Rooms Reopen

This week, we encourage residents to enjoy dining together as we reopen on

- Tuesday, February 9, for Greenleaf Rehab residents
- Wednesday, February 10, for Assisted Living and Memory Care residents
- Thursday, February 12, for Independent Living residents whom we ask to limit their reservations to two nights only for this current week so everyone can enjoy dining with others
- Sunday, February 14, for a buffet for IL residents; new hours for Bistro

Please follow all our safety precautions, especially observing social distancing and wearing a mask. Arrive on time for your reservation to avoid waiting in a crowd and, because it's been quite a while, please remember our dress code.

Updated plans, guidelines for visiting

We have confidence about inviting more people to our campus because so many residents and employees—plus family members—are completely vaccinated.

We must remain vigilant, however, until experts can share findings from their studies are available. For instance, we are eager to learn if and how new threats from variant strains and to ascertain if those vaccinated might still be carriers of COVID-19. Only then, will the Illinois Department of Public Health issue guidelines relevant to these considerations.

We are steadfast in our goal to sustain our highest level of safety, which continues to protect us, while opening up more ways to enjoy our Smith Crossing lifestyle. 

Independent living residents

- Starting this Thursday, February 11, reservations are no longer required for visitors who may go to a person's apartment after being screened.
- Channel 3 lists more activities, amenities and services now offered.

Assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents

While we await direction from the Illinois and Will County Departments of Public Health, which regulate all licensed care areas of our community, we cautiously provide ways for residents to spend time with family.

- Families can schedule virtual and outdoor booth visits with residents in assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care.

Test results and updates

During the week of February 1, we administered 245 tests including 144 for employees; 112 for residents in healthcare settings; and four for third-party providers. Our lab reported all results were negative.

Last Tuesday, we confirmed with rapid testing that two independent living residents had contracted COVID-19. Currently, one resident is recuperating in our COVID-19 unit and one person remains hospitalized.

We now are testing all employees on Tuesday afternoons and residents in healthcare settings now are tested monthly.

Trending to fewer cases in Illinois

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 2,082 new and probable cases of COVID-19, up from 1,747 reported yesterday.

In closing

We look forward to enjoying the company of each other as we open more areas of our community in the coming weeks. Please use our dedicated e-address, COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org, so a staff member can respond quickly and directly to you. And please share your suggestions as we reopen places and programs throughout Smith Crossing's campus.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director