



March 30, 2021

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

We are very pleased to inform you that—at this time—Smith Crossing is free of COVID-19. And we share residents' joy in anticipating Smith Crossing's festivities for Easter planned this weekend.

We are alerting you, however, to the possibility of the Illinois Department of Public Health may rescind some recently approved, more lenient plans for visitations and other gatherings. We will notify you if and when these new, more restrictive guidelines issued by IDPH require us to make changes.

Why this change of course?

Nationwide, across Illinois and in Will County, there is a very worrisome spike in the number of new cases of COVID-19 and related hospitalizations. Illinois' positivity rate has almost doubled to 3.9 percent this week, up from 2.1 percent nine days ago, pattern similar to the surge last September. The CDC has issued a statement about experts' serious concern about the possibility of a "fourth surge" of COVID-19.

Although so many residents, employees and family members are fully vaccinated, it is too early in our process to relax any basic precautions that have helped mitigate the spread of the virus during the last 12 months as well as protect residents, employees and visitors during the incremental process of reopening our community.

There are no exceptions to following the *Guidelines for Visitors* posted on our website. IDPH has instructed us to refuse entrance to our community or to escort from our premises any individual who does not comply with all precautions, including wearing a mask.

Easter Sunday plans for residents in our healthcare settings

Our pastry chef is preparing delicious, decorated cupcakes and cookies for residents to enjoy on Saturday, April 3, when they are by themselves and for guests to take home. Our dining services team also is preparing and serving special Easter Sunday meals to memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents in their dining rooms,



We encourage families to plan visits on Easter weekend by contacting Mary De Paola at MDePaola@smithseniorliving.org or 708-326-2305 at least 72 hours in advance. Please provide each visitor's name and phone number.

Easter Sunday plans for independent and assisted living residents

Dining services has extended the deadline for making reservations until 1pm on Saturday, April 3. Please call 708-326-2320 to learn which 90-minute seating times still are available for each dining room.

Here is an at-a-glance summary of plans for independent and assisted living residents on Easter Sunday.

9:15am	Mass with Father Bill Burke Eucharistic ministers distributing Communion	Community Hall / Channel 36 All areas of Smith Crossing
11am	Parkview Christian Church minister leads non- denominational service	Community Hall / Channel 36
11am until 4pm	Independent living residents dine with two guests from same household during 90-minute seatings	IL Main Dining
11:30am until 3:30pm	Assisted living residents dine with two guests from same household during 90-minute seatings	AL Dining Room

Updates about testing, vaccinations

All tests were negative for COVID-19 for those administered to employees and residents during the weeks of March 15 and March 22.

Today, we conducted our regularly scheduled weekly tests for staff members. All assisted living, memory care, rehab and skilled nursing care residents now are tested monthly with Tuesday, April 6, as their next date.

A nurse practitioner, who visits Smith Crossing every Wednesday to see residents about a variety of healthcare matters, also offers both doses of a vaccine. We are pleased to see new and current residents and employees sign-up. Contact me at AMauceri@SmithSeniorLiving.org to schedule an appointment for an inoculation. 

More time together

At Smith Crossing, we strive to achieve a balance of a more engaging social life for residents and ways to mitigate the threat of COVID-19. All rooms are set to ensure social distancing and reservations are required to manage the number of people in a room.

Channels 36 and 95 also offer a wide selection of popular fitness, entertainment and movies for residents to enjoy.

News important to you

This is a reminder that we are alternating weeks for my letter and my *Live Update* which airs on our in-house TV Channel 36 at 1pm on Wednesday, April 7.

Send your questions to COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org so a staff member can respond quickly and directly to you. We also welcome your suggestions.

Let us continue to work together to ensure our community is a safe and enjoyable place to live and work. We're counting on your wisdom and patience during these ever-changing times.

Happy Easter!

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director