



April 12, 2021

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

Today, our lab confirmed three new cases of COVID-19 were discovered with PCR tests administered here on April 9. Last Friday, we conducted these tests for 55 skilled nursing care and TCU residents because one CNA had received a positive result for a test taken as part of our weekly monitoring program for employees on Tuesday, April 6.

- Two residents, who live in our skilled nursing care wing, received today positive results for their tests taken this past Friday. Many may be surprised to learn they contracted the virus because both were fully vaccinated during our onsite clinics. While they are in an extremely small minority, medical experts report that fully vaccinated older adults can contract the virus but are very likely to be asymptomatic or have mild symptoms like a common cold, according to Gregory Poland, MD, an infectious disease physician at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. and director of Mayo's Vaccine Research Group.

Both residents are asymptomatic and remain strong. They now are isolated in a COVID-19 unit we established to separate them from other residents. All staff members who care for them wear appropriate PPE and properly dispose of it after each time caring for one of these residents.

- A second staff member, who received a positive outcome, last worked in the skilled nursing care wing on Sunday, April 11. This CNA, who just began to experience symptoms, already was home today.

Please observe all HIPAA regulations to honor the privacy of these individuals as well as everyone who is experiencing any kind of health challenge.

Testing increased, vaccines available here

To carefully monitor our community, we again will conduct PCR tests for all skilled nursing care, TCU, Greenleaf Rehab and assisted living residents as well as all Smith Crossing employees on our campus on Wednesday, April 14. We will determine the next testing date based on the results of the tests we administer this Wednesday.



If any independent living resident would like to be tested on Wednesday, please contact me at AMauceri@SmithSeniorLiving.org or 708-326-2326. Also residents and staff members who have not been vaccinated, should contact me at to reserve their place for our next clinic here on Wednesday, April 21.

Temporary changes for skilled nursing care, TCU residents

If there are no additional cases of COVID-19, the following changes will be in effect for skilled nursing care and TCU residents until Friday, April 23.

- Families are encouraged to continue their practice of simply arranging with residents to plan their own window visits. For virtual visits, please contact Mary DePaola at MDePaola@smithseniorliving.org or 708-326-2305 at least 48 hours in advance. Please provide each visitor's name and phone number.
- Communal activities—from dining to activities programs—will be replaced so residents can participate from the doorway of their room.
- The salon will be closed.
- Residents and staff members in these two areas will not travel to other parts of our campus.

Residents in other settings to continue with established plan

Greenleaf Rehab residents can continue to

- Complete their therapies in the gym, which is carefully disinfected throughout the day, or opt to have a therapist come to their suite.
- Dine in the Café or order meals delivered to their suite.

Independent and assisted living and memory care residents can

- Maintain their currently approved plans for indoor visits and communal activities.
- Must follow all basic precautions, especially wearing a mask and observing social distancing, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- Choose to visit outside on our beautiful campus as weather permits.
- Dine only with guests when visiting outdoors.

Recent news reports that we are experiencing a worrisome surge in the number of new cases of COVID-19 since January motivate us to sustain our adherence to best practices designed to protect ourselves and each other. Please follow the *Guidelines for Visitors* posted on our website.

IDPH instructed us to refuse entrance to or to escort from our premises any person who does not comply with all precautions, including wearing a mask.



Open communication with you

Our goal is to be timely and transparent about communicating what is occurring at Smith Crossing while we comply with all HIPAA regulations to protect the privacy of everyone who lives and works here.

So please consider this letter as serving both as a 12-hour notice mandated by the Illinois Department of Public Health and a replacement for my letter usually sent on Tuesday. In addition, I will be presenting my *Live Update* which airs on our in-house TV Channel 36 at 1pm on Wednesday, April 21, two days before we reopen the skilled nursing care and TCU areas of our community if there are no new cases of the virus.

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

While we share your frustrations with these temporary changes in some areas of our community, we ask you to recognize the value of these adjustments.

Let us continue to work together to ensure our community is safe and enjoyable. Once again, we count on the resilience of our residents and the patience of their families and friends while we follow the regulations aiming to provide the best practices for our community.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director