



August 25, 2020

Dear Smith Crossing Family,

Governor JB Pritzker announced on Monday that Will County's 8.3 percent positivity rate on Sunday, with rates for three consecutive days higher than eight percent, confirms how rapidly COVID-19 is spreading in Illinois' Region 7, the broader community where Smith Crossing is located.

According to the most recent IDPH guidelines, Smith Crossing currently is in CMS Phase One. With Will County's increase in the number of new cases of COVID-19, it has notified our community that we also are designated for Tier One mitigation for a minimum of 14 days or more if it takes longer to reduce the County's positivity rate to 6.5 percent.

This precaution makes sense because our staff members and visitors—no matter how careful—can encounter a variety of circumstances that may expose them to the virus.

At the direction of Will County, Smith Crossing has applied the guidelines for CMS Phase One to assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents. While we are in this category, we have suspended all indoor visits and beauty and barber shop services.

Three essential easy-to-follow precautions

As we see a major spike in the occurrences of the virus in Region 7 in the Restore Illinois plan, it is more important than ever for all residents and visitors to

- Wear a mask in all common areas and while interacting with each other
- Observe six-foot social distancing at all gatherings, including outdoor events, and individual encounters when walking in hallways and delivering mail and packages to a neighbor
- Practice hand-hygiene throughout the day

Daily life at Smith Crossing continues

Communal dining provides a great way for residents to socialize. Currently

- ***Independent living residents'*** dining program is provided for grab-and-go service while we provide several places to enjoy their meals.
 - Instead of the Dining Room, please use the tented the outdoor terrace set for 25 percent of seating capacity to comply with six-foot social distancing

- For the Bistro, grab-and-go breakfast and lunch are available with outdoor seating options
- For our weekly Happy Hour, libations will be served on our Terrace starting this Friday starting at 4pm
- The Oak Room remains closed at this time
- ***Assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents*** are encouraged to
 - Enjoy three meals a day in their area's Dining Room which set for 25 percent capacity and social distancing
 - Dine with the same people for each meal

According to IDPH and CMS Phase One criteria, all outdoor visits continue to be suspended for all skilled nursing care, assisted living and memory care residents. We encourage you to contact Mary DePaola at 708-326-2305 to schedule virtual visits with skilled nursing care, memory care and assisted living residents.

Independent living residents can still plan their own outdoor visits when they comply with these newest guidelines

- Limit all visitors to two 18-years and older from the same household
- Ask visitors, who develop symptoms of COVID-19 within three days of visiting Smith Crossing, to immediately contact the staff member who arranged their visit or the individual whom they visited so we can conduct contact tracing

IDPH regulations determine our current practices

In accordance with Will County and IDPH guidelines, Smith Crossing will conduct testing every seven days for all assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents and for all employees, who have never tested positive, until our community achieves minimum of 28 consecutive days with no new cases of COVID-19 among residents

Our shared commitment to following safety precautions

In addition to following all the restrictions by the Will County Department of Public Health, we require employees, residents and prospective visitors, who visit States and Territories designated as hot spots due to their increased number of new cases of COVID-19 by the City of Chicago, to self-quarantine for 14 days. Chicago updates this list on Tuesdays and media announces changes.

We adhere to guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Illinois and Will County Departments of Public Health, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recommending all residents only leave Smith Crossing for necessary medical appointments. If it is necessary for residents to schedule an appointment and they comply with our three key precautions regarding COVID-19, they will not be required to isolate for 14 days.

We ask you to find comfort by watching televised religious services instead of attending services at your place of worship. We strongly discourage residents going to a restaurant or to family's home.

Zoom meetings for families

Last week, we announced plans for a new way for us to communicate. Our first meeting for all families is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, at 6pm. Next week, we'll share instructions about how to register for the meeting.

Testing

During the week of August 17, we tested a total of 275 people who must participate in weekly testing: 183 staff members and 92 assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents. One third-party caregiver did test positive for COVID-19 and is recuperating at home. We also completed contact tracing with appropriate residents and employees. Test results for all other 275 individuals were negative.

For those who compare our weekly testing reports, we tested 125 more individuals during the previous week. A few dozen independent living residents, who are not required to be tested, and one-time testing for more than 60 Joliet Junior College nursing students who were tested before they completed their clinical experience here.

Following guidelines published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Smith Crossing does not test asymptomatic individuals who previously tested positive for COVID-19.

Again this week, we conduct weekly testing for residents and employees to meet the requirements of the Will and Illinois Departments of Public Health. Although they are not required to do so, we offer testing to independent living residents on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and those who would like to be tested should contact Amie Kamba at extension 2329.

Please share your ideas

Please write to COVID19SmithCrossing@SmithSeniorLiving.org so our senior staff member, who monitors this inbox, will direct your questions, ideas and suggestions to our appropriate colleague who will respond to you.

Please know how much we appreciate your cooperation when we sometimes must change programs and amenities that are in place. These changes are motivated by our mutual goal to keep your safety as our highest priority.

As a community, we protect one another by following these frequently changing directives as we advance toward a time when we can return to daily life as we have known and cherished it.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mauceri

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Executive Director