



June 16, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

We have received a very encouraging report for 97 assisted living and skilled nursing care residents and 78 staff members who were tested for COVID-19 since last Tuesday. Those who previously tested positive for the virus need not be tested at this time.

Of the 175 people tested, Smith Village has one new positive test result.

- An assisted living resident, who was asymptomatic when returning from an extended stay with family, was tested last Monday when the person moved back to Smith Village.

We reported this outcome when Smith Village received a positive test result on Saturday. This resident is recovering in the person's assisted living apartment.

Last Tuesday, we informed you about a resident who is asymptomatic and tested positive for the virus. This person remains isolated in our skilled nursing care wing. Our staff wears full PPE, including gowns, masks, goggles and face shields, when inside an isolation room.

At Smith Village, we carefully observe all HIPAA regulations. Please join us in respecting the privacy of every resident and staff member.

### ***Status of reopening our campus***

Like you, we are eager to plan more opportunities for family visits and more activities and in-person services for residents. At this time, we are waiting for the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide guidance for senior living communities to expand reopening plans.

We thank independent living residents and their families for observing precautions while visiting outside on our campus. We ask families of assisted living residents to plan outdoor visits by calling Meghan Maple at 773-253-5563. Families of skilled nursing care residents can schedule "window visits" by calling Lisa Madsen at 773-474-7316.

For these visits and around-the-clock at Smith Village, it is essential that residents and staff members as well as visitors follow all mandated practices: wear a face mask, observe social distancing, practice hand-hygiene and other precautions.

### ***This week's testing plan***

On Wednesday, we again will test all assisted living and skilled nursing care residents and staff members, who have not previously tested positive. If we learn from these tests there are no new cases of COVID-19, we achieve 14 consecutive days with no new cases of the virus. Then, we will move from weekly testing to monthly testing, according to guidelines published by several healthcare agencies.

As we reopen our community, we count on your adherence to protocols and practices designed to abate COVID-19. Our commitment to the well-being of each other motivates our compliance with all practices related to COVID-19 as directed by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

So we continue to

- Screen all staff members before and during each shift
- Restrict all visitors from spending time in our building
- Not plan any gatherings of more than 10 people or field trips

It is wonderful to see families spending time with residents. Please write to [COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org) to share your suggestions and to ask questions. Our senior staff member monitoring all requests will ask the appropriate employee to contact you.

Sincerely yours,



Marti Jatis

Executive Director

PS With more agencies reporting on the incidence of COVID-19, there sometimes appears to be a discrepancy between our reports and those of agencies you may see online.

Please be confident, what I share with you today is accurate and focuses on the present. The weekly report on IDPH's website, for instance, is cumulative since March and only updated every Friday.