



July 14, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

On Thursday, July 9, the Chicago Department of Public Health informed us that Smith Village is the City's first senior living community to achieve 28 consecutive days without a new case of COVID-19.

This benchmark makes it possible to reduce to monthly the frequency of testing assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents. We also anticipate the Illinois Department of Public Health will loosen some restrictions for residents.

Since last Tuesday, Smith Village conducted approximately 150 tests for employees. All results received were negative. We will continue weekly tests for all staff members who work in these areas. Weekly testing continues for employees this Wednesday.

***Your cooperation is critical if you want to visit***

Before I share with you the most recent change regarding outdoor visits with residents mandated by the City of Chicago, I implore you to follow the rules and reservation system Smith Village has devised to comply with the rules and regulations of the Illinois Department of Public Health. For your information, I have included an excerpt from IDPH's guidelines at the end of today's letter.

I believe our mutual goal should be to ensure the safety of residents, their families and our staff members. During the last week, however, several family members have not complied with the following rules.

- ***Scheduling outdoor visits in advance is required*** because Smith Village only is allowed to accommodate a certain number of visitors on-campus at any single time.
- ***Booking your reservation for an outdoor visit*** with assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents ***at least 72 hours in advance is required***. Call or send an email to the Smith Village staff member, designated on page 2 of this letter, to make your reservation.
- ***Screening all visitors for COVID-19 at the Reception Desk is required by the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health.***

***If you do not comply with these clearly stated rules, you will be turned away.*** The only exception to scheduled visits are for family members to spend

time with residents who are at the end of life. These visitors will be screened for symptoms of the virus before proceeding into the building.

***New safety mandate by City of Chicago***

The City of Chicago has added another restriction that applies to residents, their families and employees. ***You cannot visit a resident or work at Smith Village if you have traveled internationally, including Canada and Mexico, or to one of the States listed by the City as a “hot spot”*** due to a spike in the occurrence of the virus in that State.

As of today, those 15 States include Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah. Starting July 17, the Order also applies to Iowa and Oklahoma. Click here to link to this list updated every Tuesday. <<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>>.

As part of our screening process, you now will be asked if you have traveled to any of these destinations published by the City. If so, you must quarantine for 14-days and will not be admitted to Smith Village according to the City’s guidelines.

***Follow this system only for outdoor visits***

For all outdoor visits with residents, family members are required to

- Meet residents only outdoors in their designated areas on our campus
- Arrive at Smith Village wearing a face mask; observing social distancing of six-feet; using hand-sanitizer or washing hands
- Schedule all visits at least 72 hours in advance by contacting
  - Meghan Maple at MMaple@SmithSeniorLiving.org for assisted living residents
  - Lisa Madsen at LMadsen@smithseniorliving.org or 773-474-7316 for skilled nursing care residents and plan to be prescreened for the virus during a phone call no more than 24 hours prior to your designated visitation time

As a reminder, skilled nursing care residents have visiting hours seven days a week on the lawn to the west of our main entrance at 113<sup>th</sup> Place beginning at

9:30am

1:30pm

10:30am

2:30pm

Two additional times at 3:30 and 5:30pm are available on Thursdays.

***Plans to offer more dining options and more***

Later this month, we plan to add indoor dining—with social distancing and all safety precautions—in some of our dining areas. Weather permitting, we encourage you to enjoy our established outdoor dining areas in the Courtyard.

Our comprehensive plans to keep COVID-19 away from our campus follow the restrictions and guidelines published by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

As we add more outdoor activities in all areas of our community, we rely on your adherence to protocols and practices designed to abate COVID-19.

***Let's be grateful for our decrease in cases of the virus***

On behalf of our entire staff, I think our independent living residents and their families for being so cooperative by following the ever-changing protocols we must follow to ensure the safety of everyone at Smith Village.

As we witness record-breaking increases of new cases as well as deaths due to COVID-19 in other places—which have not followed the cautious strategies of Chicago and Illinois—I hope it is clear we only can benefit from the wisdom of the rules and regulations we continue to follow.

Smith Village screens all staff members before and during their shift. We restrict all visitors from entering our building. And we only plan gatherings for 10 or fewer people.

Please send to [COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org) your questions so our senior staff member can ask the appropriate employee to respond to you.

Very truly yours,



Marti Jatis  
Executive Director

[Continue to read IDPH Guidelines](#)



## **Illinois Department of Public Health Guidelines for outdoor visitations**

As of June 18, 2022, IDPH initiated a new outdoor visitation guidance for long-term care facilities. Please read highlights of this document are as follows:

- Visitations must be limited to two visitors at a time per resident. The maximum number of residents and visitors in the outdoors space at one time is predicated on the size of the outdoor space.
- The LTCF must ensure that a minimum distancing of six feet is achievable in the outdoor space when determining the maximum number of residents and visitors who can simultaneously occupy that outdoor space. The LTCF must clearly communicate and enforce social distancing of six feet between the resident and all visitors.
- The facility must set the maximum number of visitors allowed in a single day.
- Visitors must schedule an appointment with the facility to visit a resident.'
- The LTCF must prescreen visitors via phone with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) symptom checklist not more than 24 hours in advance. The facility must also screen visitors on arrival with the CDC symptom checklist and a temperature check.
- Residents with active COVID-19 infection, either laboratory confirmed or symptomatic, are not allowed to participate in outdoor visits. Residents receiving visitors should also be screened with the CDC symptom checklist prior to visitor's arrival. Visitors displaying symptoms should not visit the facility.
- **Visits must be limited to outdoor areas only.** However, they may take place under a canopy or tent without walls. Outdoor spaces must have separate ingress and egress which does not require the visitor to enter the LTCF building. Visitors must not enter the facility at any time during their visit. For the duration of each visit, the resident and visitor must wear a face covering. The facility may set the time duration of each visit.
- The facility should have staff supervision during each visit to ensure the use of face coverings and social distancing. The facility may determine whether supervision is continuous or intermittent.