



July 21, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

Anxiety. Confusion. Frustration. Impatience. Loneliness. These are just some of the realities all of us experience as health agencies' ever-changing regulations regarding COVID-19 tax our patience. I reassure you we understand your impatience and heart-wrenching worries about being physically separated from loved ones, your families and fellow-residents for more than 125 days. The question we ask: Is it worth it?

We think it is. At Smith Village, we are doing all we can to reopen more places for residents to socialize. Our goal is to sustain our status as the City's first senior living community to achieve 28 consecutive days without a new case of COVID-19. We recognize this victory does not liberate us from any of the restrictions designed to protect residents and employees.

***Recent testing confirms our virus-free status***

Smith Village remains free of COVID-19. On July 15, we tested more than 100 staff members. All received negative results.

Even with our current record of being free of the virus, Smith Village continues weekly testing for employees and anticipates monthly testing for the second time this summer for assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care residents in August. This current plan complies with the testing protocols mandated by the Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health.

***More opportunities for residents to socialize***

***Dining rooms:*** This morning, we opened the dining room for assisted living residents to enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner there. To comply with six-foot social distancing, we rearranged tables in the dining room and asked residents to tell us their preferred times for dining so we can accommodate everyone.

We observe all precautions. Our staff wears face masks at all times. Residents wear masks until they are seated in the dining room. We promote hand-hygiene. And we disinfect all areas of the dining room during the day.

On Tuesday, July 28, we will reopen the dining room for independent living residents who already can choose between Marketplace Café and The Oak Room for some meals. Social distancing is imperative for all dining areas.

**Outdoor visits:** Smith Village's outdoor visitation program remains in place for all residents seven days a week. We designated areas on our campus for each group of residents according to where they live at Smith Village.

Please reserve your visitation time at least 72 hours in advance. Families of

- Skilled nursing care residents should contact Lisa Madsen at LMadsen@smithseniorliving.org or 773-474-7316
- Assisted living residents must contact Meghan Maple at MMaple@SmithSeniorLiving.org

We encourage independent living residents and their families to make their own plans for outdoor visits in areas designated for them.

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 this clearly stated rule, you will be turned away. All visitors are restricted. Only family members of residents at the end of their life, who are screened for symptoms of the virus when they arrive, can enter our building.

Smith Village screens all staff members before and during their shift. And we only plan gatherings for 10 or fewer people. Our most recent precaution complies with Chicago's restrictions for individuals who travel to "hot spots" with a spike in cases of COVID-19. You can review the list of these States, updated every Tuesday, by visiting

<<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>>

### ***Building for our future***

I am pleased to report we are making great strides with our accelerated construction schedule to renovate the Johanson Wing. The three-story addition at the south end of the building is taking shape. Inside, drywall is being installed and plumbers are at work in several areas.

Please send to COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org your questions and expect a direct response from the appropriate staff member.

Very truly yours,



Marti Jatis  
Executive Director