



August 11, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

We are very grateful to continue to report there have been no new cases of COVID-19 at Smith Village since Friday, May 29.

On Monday, August 10, we received results for our most recent tests which for 129 employees who care for assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents as well as for 99 residents who live in those settings. Following guidelines by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Illinois Department of Public Health we do not test asymptomatic individuals with a history of a COVID-19 positive test.

With our status, Smith Village again will test residents living in these settings in September at a time to be scheduled and in accordance with our testing policy. We also continue to conduct weekly testing for employees working in assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care. This testing plan meets the requirements of the newly issued guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health and mandates from the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Independent living residents are not required to be tested but are welcomed to schedule a test.

***New IDPH guidelines inform our current practices***

As you know, the Illinois Department of Public Health provides specific implementation guidelines for the mandates issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. We will implement the newest IDPH guidelines when they are effective on Friday, August 14, 2020.

Thanks for our virus-free status, we will continue to provide

- Meals for independent living residents in their Dining Room, Marketplace Café and The Oak Room, where we recently added indoor and patio dining options that observe social distancing as well as grab-and-go options at all three locations
- Activities for groups of 10 or fewer people
- Outdoor visitations with residents designated areas of our campus in where they live

We are refining our plan for communal dining for skilled nursing care residents to ensure it complies with the new IDPH guidelines. We are eager to offer this new opportunity for residents to enjoy the company of their neighbors.

Smith Village requires all residents and their visitors to

- Wear face masks that cover their nose when they are in common areas
- Practice hand-hygiene
- Observe six-foot social distancing in gatherings and while walking inside and outside our community

Staff members are required to

- Be screened at the beginning and during each shift
- Wear a face mask at all time
- Wash their hands on a very regular basis as well as before and after engaging with a resident
- Practice social distancing except when their caregiving responsibilities require otherwise
- Disinfect areas as assigned

The new IDPH guidelines have added another requirement for visitors: If any visitor experiences symptoms of COVID-19 during a three-day period following a visit, they must contact the person who scheduled their appointment. Still in place is Smith Village's requirement to reserve times for getting together at least 72 hours in advance by contacting

- Lisa Madsen at [LMadsen@smithseniorliving.org](mailto:LMadsen@smithseniorliving.org) or 773-474-7316 for skilled nursing care residents
- Meghan Maple at [MMaple@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:MMaple@SmithSeniorLiving.org) for assisted living residents

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 pass the screening, you will be asked to postpone your visit.

The new IDPH guidelines further define who qualifies for compassionate care visits to include residents whose health status has sharply declined and those residents who have a close relative or friend who has passed away. Please consult with Lisa or Meghan to learn more.

We adhere to the City of Chicago's list of "hot spots" with a spike in cases of COVID-19 to determine who is required self-quarantine for 14 days if someone visits any of these destinations. This restriction applies to employees, visitors and residents. To see the list of locations updated on Tuesday, visit <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>

It is important to note that these new IDPH guidelines rely on the entire City of Chicago meeting the criteria designated as part of the new Restore Illinois plan.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marti Jatis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marti Jatis  
Executive Director