



August 18, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

At Smith Village, we continue to report no new cases of COVID-19 since Friday, May 29. Our status makes it possible to provide more ways for residents to enjoy the company of each other and to welcome guests for outdoor visits.

Testing update

On August 11 and 12, we tested 127 employees as well as 11 residents. All received negative results for the virus.

In compliance with current guidelines published by the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, we continue to test all employees working in skilled nursing care, memory support and assisted living. Following the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines, we do not test asymptomatic individuals who previously tested positive test for COVID-19.

Testing for residents living in these three settings has progressed to a monthly schedule with our next testing days to be slated in early September. In addition, we currently offer testing every Wednesday for independent living residents, who are not required to take a test. Any interested independent resident should contact Joe Kendrick at extension 7304 to schedule the test.

Voting in the November 3, 2020 Election

Should residents choose to not rely on the United States Postal Service, Alderman Matt O'Shea has recruited the League of Women Voters, whose members are volunteering to make it possible for the citizens of the 19th Ward who want to "vote by mail."

Here's how this great service will work.

- By next week, I'll have copies of the ballot application form for residents to complete.
- We will distribute ballot applications to all residents, designating a deadline and location for turning in your completed forms.
- Then, volunteers from the League of Women Voters will pick-up all our collected ballot applications and deliver them directly to the Board of Elections in Chicago.

Once residents receive their ballots,

- We will set an early deadline for casting your votes and delivering your completed ballots to a secure location on our campus.
- Again, the League will pick-up residents' ballots and deliver them to the Ward's early voting location to ensure your votes are counted.

This service is especially important because Smith Village will not be a polling place this November.

Communal dining now offered in all settings

On Wednesday, we will begin serving meals in the Dining Rooms on all three floors of the skilled nursing care wing. We adapted each Dining Room to observe six-foot social distancing and to limit seating to 25 percent of the room's capacity. We believe dining together not only will encourage more social engagement but also increase the appetites of our residents.

We also will continue to provide

- Meals for independent living residents in their Dining Room, Marketplace Café and The Oak Room with indoor and patio dining options, as well as grab-and-go options at all three locations
- Three meals a day in the Dining Room for Oakhaven residents
- Activities for groups of 10 or fewer people
- Outdoor visitations with residents designated areas of our campus in where they live

Prudent practices benefit our entire community

Smith Village requires all residents and their visitors to

- Wear face masks covering their nose when 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 of and during each shift
- Wear a face mask at all time
- Wash their hands on a very regular basis, including before and after helping a resident
- Practice social distancing except when their care for residents requires otherwise

- Disinfect areas as assigned

New IDPH requirements for visitors

So Smith Village can arrange safe visits for residents, IDPH now limits guests to two people from the same household for each visit. We ask family members to reserve times for getting together at least 72 hours in advance by contacting

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

Effective Friday, August 14, IDPH requires visitors, who experience any symptoms of COVID-19 during a three-day period after they are on our campus to inform Smith Village about the possible change in their status to facilitate thorough contact tracing. Please contact the person who scheduled your visit or call Joe Kendrick if you spent time with an independent living resident.

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.

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.

We use the City of Chicago's list of destinations with significant increases in new cases of COVID-19 to determine who is required self-quarantine for 14 days.

It was announced today Wisconsin and Nebraska were removed from this list and Kansas and Iowa, removed last week, were added back to this list. Currently, 19 States and Puerto Rico are designated. We apply this mandate to employees, visitors and residents. For a list of locations updated every Tuesday, visit <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>

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

As we strive to reopen more places and ways for people to get together, it is more important than ever to keep open our lines of communication.

Our shared goal is to preserve our status as a virus-free community.

Sincerely,

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

Marti Jatis
Executive Director