August 25, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

We remain grateful to state Smith Village has not had a new cases of COVID-19 since Friday, May 29, 2020. This sustained progress made it possible for our community to notify the Illinois Department of Public Health that Smith Village qualifies to be designated as CMS Phase Three community, the highest ranking according to the newest IDPH directives.

With this designation, we can offer residents more ways to enjoy the company of each other, to take advantage of some of our newly reopened amenities and programs, and to spend time with family and friends.

**Spending time together makes a big difference**

We are heartened to see the positive effects communal dining makes for residents who live in all settings. We limit the capacity to 25 percent of all venues so diners easily comply with six-foot social distancing. Servers always wear face masks and diners wear masks until they are seated.

Smith Village now serves

- 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 in Oakhaven assisted living residents
- Three meals a day in the Dining Rooms on all three floors of our Johanson Wing for skilled nursing care and rehab residents

Every week, we add more activities and programs for groups of 10 or fewer people, who also observe all our safety protocols. As Smith Village moves into CMS Phase Three status, we are planning how to offer indoor visits and reopen salons in a safe way for all settings during the next few weeks.

Our system for outdoor visitations is running smoothly thanks to the cooperation of so many families and residents. Family members should reserve times for visits at least 72 hours in advance by contacting

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

- Limits guests to two people over 18 years of age from the same household
- Requires visitors, who experiences symptoms of COVID-19 during a three-day period after they are on our campus, to inform Smith Village to help us conduct contact tracing

If you experience any symptoms, you are required to contact the person who scheduled your visit. If you visited an independent living resident, call Joe Kendrick at 773-747-7304.

All visitors are screened for COVID-19 at the Reception Desk. If you do not pass the screening, you will be asked to postpone your visit. We also require employees, residents and prospective visitors, who visit States and Territories designated as hot spots due to their increased number of new cases of COVID-19 by the City of Chicago, to self-quarantine for 14 days. Every Tuesday, the City updates this list on its website.

**Testing report and schedule**

During the week of August 17, we tested 113 staff members and six residents. All received negative results.

We continue to test every week all employees, who have never tested positive and are working in skilled nursing care, memory support and assisted living. This weekly practice meets the guidelines of the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health. We offer tests every Wednesday for independent living residents, although they are not required to take one. Interested residents should contact Joe Kendrick at extension 7304.

Because Smith Village has had no new cases for an extended period of time, residents living in these three settings only are required to be tested monthly, with the next date planned for early September.

**Prudent practices benefit our entire community**

Smith Village remains vigilant, requiring 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

Please send your suggestions and questions to our dedicated email address, COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org, which is monitored by a senior staff member who will ask the appropriate employee to respond directly to you.

We are committed to open and transparent communication with you and appreciate how you communicate with us. It is more important than ever to sustain our open and transparent communication as our residents enjoy Smith Village’s community lifestyle in more ways.

Sincerely,

Marti Jatis
Executive Director