



October 20, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

For several months, experts have predicted a significant upward trend for the number of people contracting COVID-19 during fall and winter months. Our surrounding neighborhoods already are experiencing this surge.

You may have read Monday's email from Alderman Matt O'Shea alerting us to the fact there is a 10.8 percent positivity rate—up from last week's rate of 8.8 percent—among people living in our 60643 zip code. Plus, the positivity rate is now 13.8 percent for those living in the 60655 zip code adjacent to ours. Both are more than double the citywide 5.4 percent positivity rate.

*Why is this a concern for our Smith Village community?*

Because so many residents' families and friends live near our campus and visit frequently, we must intensify our commitment to abating the spread of the virus among residents, some who are counted among our country's most vulnerable. We also recognize the need to protect our employees who are dedicated to ensuring residents' well-being.

During times like this, we often experience tension between doing our best to protect everyone and pursuing our yearning to return to Smith Village's energy-filled social life. While we miss so much of our daily routines, I encourage each of us to embrace the mindset of living a day at a time—including not making plans now for holiday celebrations—as we find the best ways to adapt to our ever-changing world impacted by the virus.

***Our current status is most restrictive***

On Monday, we informed you that Smith Village has moved to the most restrictive status because two staff members tested positive for COVID-19. Both are recovering at home. All other 116 employees, who were tested during the week of October 12, received negative results.

To further protect residents, Smith Village made the following changes for

***Dining program***

**For independent living residents**

- Dinner is being delivered to residents' apartments
- The Marketplace now serves carryout for breakfast, lunch and dinner
- The Oak Room and all Dining Rooms are closed

### **For Oakhaven assisted living residents**

- Breakfast, lunch and dinner are being delivered to residents' apartments

### **For skilled nursing care residents**

- All meals are delivered to their rooms during the current phase of construction in the Johanson Wing and their services remain the same

### **Visits with residents**

- All visits with skilled nursing care residents are cancelled for now
- Independent and assisted living residents still can plan outdoor visits

### **Amenities and programs**

- Salon services are suspended
- Small group activities including fitness classes are suspended

### ***Protecting everyone our highest priority***

To help us reserve our PPE inventory for residents and staff members, if and when we need it, all visitors are expected to arrive wearing their own mask.

We thank everyone for adhering to our precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 that include

- Wearing a mask, observing social distancing at all times, and following hand-hygiene and sanitation practices
- Following our current visitor guidelines including but not limited to
  - Scheduling one weekly visit between 10am and 7pm
  - Planning only two people from the same household for a single visit
  - Being screened when signing a visitation form at arrival
  - Going directly to the designated area to meet a resident
  - Not eating or drinking during any visit
  - Reporting any symptoms of COVID-19 experienced within 72 hours of a visit at Smith Crossing
- Quarantining for 14 days if an employee, resident and prospective visitor has visited any hot spot designated every Tuesday by the City of Chicago

### ***Testing update***

In accordance with Smith Village's current status and requirements by the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health, we conducted testing for all healthcare residents on Monday.

On Wednesday, October 21, we will test all employees and any independent resident who wants to be included. Residents should call the Receptionist at extension 7300 to indicate their intention to be tested.

Employees who would like copies of their test results should ask Meghan Maple or me to print results for them.

***Safety first***

We adhere to all of the directives by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health.

Clear and open communication is more important than ever during this time of change. So, please share your suggestions and ask questions by sending your email to [COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org). A senior staff member, who monitors your messages, will ask the appropriate employee to respond.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marti Jatis".

Marti Jatis  
Executive Director