



November 10, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

On Monday, a Smith Senior Living team member, who is asymptomatic, received a positive COVID-19 result for a test taken here last week. This person, who was working in Smith's corporate office on the second floor when the report arrived, immediately left to recover at home.

This staff member has had no recent direct contact with residents and Smith Village staff members. Respect this person's privacy according to HIPAA rules.

Increase in positive test results

During the week of November 2, we administered 302 tests, including conducting tests twice for a few individuals. Eleven people received positive results for the virus; everyone else, negative results. Here is the status of all tested:

- Four assisted living residents, who received positive test results, are quarantined and recuperating in their apartments; 61 had negative results
- All 30 skilled nursing care residents tested received negative outcomes
- All 32 independent living residents, who asked to be tested, had negative results
- Six Smith Village employees—one each in Dining Services, Therapy and Nursing; three in Administration—tested positive and are home recovering at home; all others have confirmed negative outcomes
- One member of Smith Senior Living's corporate team, who received a positive result yesterday, is recuperating at home

On Wednesday, November 11, Smith Village again tests all employees and all residents who live in our healthcare settings. To be tested, independent resident should call the Receptionist at extension 7300.

Help abate the spread

I share these facts with you to underscore how this second surge is affecting us. But there are actions we can take to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Benefit from old-fashioned fresh air and ventilation, to improve circulation

- This past weekend we installed industrial sized HEPA air filters in assisted living common areas where residents, who are symptomatic or have mild symptoms, are quarantined in their apartments as they recuperate from the virus

- We are asking that all residents open your windows and set your thermostat on “fan” rather than “auto”

Please be mindful of any symptoms of COVID-19 you might experience

- Fever of 100° or higher or a fever above your typical baseline
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

If you think you are experiencing one or more symptoms of COVID-19

- Limit your interactions with others
- Residents, please contact me at extension 7314 or Meghan Maple at extension 5563 so we can expedite testing for you here
- Visitors, please stay home
- Consider postponing visits while there is a rising positivity rate in our neighborhoods
- Arrive wearing your own mask, if you do visit, to help maintain our PPE inventory

Our available amenities and programs for residents and their families remain the same as they were last week.

For independent living residents

- Dinner is delivered to residents’ apartments
- The Marketplace offers carryout for breakfast, lunch and dinner
- The Oak Room and Dining Room are closed
- Select small group activities, with social distancing and other precautions, are planned, but others including fitness classes are suspended
- The Salon is closed
- Visitors, who may visit in residents’ apartments, must be screened and only go directly to and from their destination

For Oakhaven assisted living residents

- Breakfast, lunch and dinner are delivered to residents’ apartments
- Life Enrichment activities are planned for residents so they can participate in the hallway outside their apartment (to ensure social distancing)
- The Salon is closed
- All visits are temporarily cancelled

For skilled nursing care residents

- All meals are delivered to their rooms during the current phase of construction in the Johanson Wing
- The Salon is closed

- Other programs and services remain the same

Protect each other

It is essential all of us do our part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by

- 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 Village
- Quarantining for 14 days if an employee, resident and prospective visitor has visited any hot spot designated on Tuesdays by the City of Chicago

Be mindful of the surge around us

Today, Governor JB Pritzker announced 12,623 new cases of COVID-19, making Tuesday the fifth consecutive day new cases exceeded 10,000. He further stated that Illinois' seven-day positivity rate rose to 12.0 percent, up from 10.6 percent on Sunday.

Most recent reports published on Sunday, November 8, by the Chicago Department of Public Health also present equally concerning data. Our City's seven-day positivity rate reached 13 percent on Wednesday, November 4, a substantial increase from a 9.1 positivity rate on October 31.

Closer to home, the positivity rate for our zip code was at 9.3 percent as of last Wednesday, and the rate climbed to 13.5 percent for nearby 60655. All rates far surpass the eight percent positivity rate threshold for initiating restrictions.

Safety first

Be sure you are following all of the directives by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Chicago and Illinois Departments of Public Health.

With so many new cases and quickly changing circumstances related to COVID-19 in our Region 11, please send us your questions and suggestions. Write to COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org. A senior staff member, who

monitors your messages, will ask the appropriate Smith Village employee to respond directly to you.

Your place reserved for vaccine

Even though specific information about the selection and distribution of reliable vaccines is not yet available, we have enrolled Smith Village in the Federal registry to reserve a priority place for our residents and employees when one or more vaccines become available.

When we do receive directives, we will share with you how this very important advancement in the fight against the virus will be delivered to our community.

We truly appreciate and rely on your collaboration as we respond to the impact of this escalating surge in new cases of COVID-19.

Very truly yours,

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

Marti Jatis
Executive Director