



November 17, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

This afternoon, Governor JB Pritzker announced the entire State of Illinois will move to Tier 3, the most restrictive status for gatherings, effective Friday, November 20. This decision is designed to avoid a stay-at-home order like the one initiated in the spring.

We are working now to ascertain how this change will affect daily life at Smith Village and will issue guidelines no later than Friday morning. We also will share a sneak preview of the Thanksgiving Day meal our new executive chef Diego Burgos and his amazing culinary team have planned for residents to enjoy on campus.

During the week of November 8, Smith Village administered a total of 261 tests to residents in all settings and to all employees. These tests yielded one positive COVID-19 result for an assisted living resident. We also received 259 negative outcomes for other residents and all employees. And one test was voided.

As of today, six assisted living residents, who recently tested positive, are recovering in their apartments with care provided by staff members who wear appropriate PPE and follow all precautions. Please respect our residents' privacy as described in HIPAA regulations.

Record-breaking surge continues

Both Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Governor JB Pritzker have issued stay-at-home advisories for the next 30 days. They urge everyone to only leave their homes for essential trips; to not invite anyone, including family members, into their homes; and to cancel plans for Thanksgiving gatherings.

Data supports the wisdom of the advice to exercise extreme caution. This afternoon, the Illinois Department of Health reported Monday's count of 12,601 new confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 across Illinois.

The State's seven-day positivity rate has reached 12.5 percent. As of Sunday, November 15, Chicago's positivity rate is 15.9 percent, up from 13.6 percent seven days earlier.

We also share our concern about the worrisome increases in the prevalence of the virus where many residents' families live. As of November 7, the positivity rate in 60643, our zip code, increased slightly to 9.7 percent, up from 9.4 percent on October 31. For nearby neighborhoods in the 60655 zip code, the rate surged to 19.4 percent, up from 13.8 percent.

How Smith Village now mitigates spreading the virus

Starting this week, the Chicago Department of Public Health requires all our employees be tested twice a week. Every week, we also test all residents in healthcare settings.

This week, we will test staff members on Mondays and Wednesdays and healthcare residents on Tuesdays. Independent living residents, who would like to be tested, should call the Receptionist at extension 7300 to schedule a time.

We continue to take practical steps too. To improve ventilation, We have asked all residents open their windows and set the thermostat in their apartments on “fan” rather than “auto.” Smith Village also installed industrial-strength HEPA air filters in assisted living common areas where residents, who are symptomatic or have mild symptoms, are quarantined as they recuperate from the virus.

We also aim to reduce situations when possible transmission of the virus is likely. 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 for six or fewer people, 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
- Families can schedule outdoor visits with residents by contacting Lisa Madsen at LMadsen@SmithSeniorLiving.org
- The Salon is closed

- Other programs and services remain the same

Guidelines for protecting yourself and others

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

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

- Fever of 100⁰ 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 should contact me at extension 7314 or Meghan Maple at extension 5563 so we can expedite testing for you here
- Visitors, please stay home

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

Safety first

With so many new cases and quickly changing circumstances related to COVID-19 in our Region 11, we value the opportunity to answer your questions and hear your ideas. 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.

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,



Marti Jatis
Executive Director