



December 1, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

For today's letter, I summarize the occurrences of COVID-19 in our community during the month of November as well as provide a report on the status of everyone's recovery. In addition, I am sharing more preliminary information about the CDC's plan to administer vaccines for the virus on our campus.

Test results from last week, plan for this week

During the week of November 22, Smith Village administered 351 tests, including 268 for employees who are tested twice a week. For residents, we conducted 23 tests in skilled nursing care, 57 in assisted living and three for independent living. We now have received all reports.

Again this week, we tested all employees on Monday and will do so again on Wednesday. We are testing assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents today. If independent living residents want to be tested, they should contact the Receptionist for a test on Wednesday.

Review of positive cases during November

As you know from reading our advisories distributed when we receive notification of new cases, six residents and 17 staff members tested positive for COVID-19 last month including

- Five assisted living residents
- One independent living resident
- Four members of our administrative team
- One Smith Senior Living team member, who has an office on our campus
- Seven members of our Dining Services team
- Two members of our environmental services and housekeeping team
- Two members of our nursing team
- One therapist

All residents have been quarantined for at least 14 days. Some still are testing positive so they remain isolated here and, recently, one resident was hospitalized. As each tests negative, residents' isolation period ends. Twelve staff members have returned to work in accordance with CDC guidelines, and five are still recuperating at home.

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 12,542 new cases of confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19, more than double the 6,190 new cases logged on Monday. Governor JB Pritzker also underscored serious concern about the increase in hospitalizations and indicated, in consultation with Dr. Anthony Fauci, it is likely he and Mayor Lori Lightfoot will extend the current stay-at-home advisory.

Plan for vaccinations

As you know from news reports, there is tremendous progress in advancing the availability of vaccines and Smith Village already had registered with the federal government to confirm our community is a high priority.

Last Tuesday, we learned that the CDC has authorized Walgreens to be our provider for both residents and staff members. We have begun the initial planning process to confirm how Walgreens will handle all facets of our community's immunization process and will share more information as it becomes available.

The Walgreens pharmacy will be responsible for

- Educating all of us about the vaccines
- Registering us to receive them
- Ordering and transporting the vaccines which require special ultra-cold storage and handling
- Providing trained Walgreens staff members to administer inoculations on our campus as well as the syringes and other supplies
- Removing all used materials from our campus
- Handling paperwork for billing, and filing our report to the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control
- Advising us when the time is right for the second dose of a vaccine and managing that process as well

Continue to exercise precautions

All residents must

- Wear a face mask—covering both nose and mouth—when leaving their home and when any employee enters their apartment for any reason
- Observe six-foot social distancing in hallways and during any small gatherings

- Wash their hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer provided at stations throughout our building
- Self-quarantine if they have visited any hot spot designated on Tuesdays by the City of Chicago

All visitors are expected to comply with all these practices and to arrive wearing a mask before they are allowed to enter Smith Village.

To improve airflow, residents can set the thermostat in their apartment to “fan” instead of “auto.” We also installed industrial-strength HEPA air filters in assisted living common areas.

The temporary changes regarding daily life, which we started last month, remain in place

For Oakhaven assisted living residents

- All outdoor and indoor visits are temporarily cancelled
- 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 while observing social distancing
- A greater variety of programs, including informative and entertaining broadcasts, now are available on Channel 36
- The Salon is closed

For skilled nursing care residents

- All meals are delivered to residents’ rooms during the construction
- Families can schedule virtual visits with residents by contacting Lisa Madsen at LMadsen@SmithSeniorLiving.org
- The Salon is closed
- Other programs and services remain the same

For independent living residents

- Visitors to residents’ apartments are limited to two people from the same household, who must be screened before they go directly to and from their destination
- Dinner is delivered to residents’ apartments
- The Marketplace offers carryout for breakfast, lunch and dinner
- The Oak Room, Dining Room and Salon are closed

- Select small group activities now limited to six or fewer people, with social distancing and other precautions, are planned, but others including fitness classes are suspended

Take care of 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

Communication is key

Because we recently have instituted several changes and there will be more on the horizon, please ask your question and send suggestions 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 value the resilient spirit of everyone at Smith Village as we stay the course and collaborate to combat this virus.

Gratefully,



Marti Jatis

Executive Director