



December 8, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

On behalf of your entire Smith Village team, I thank our residents and their families for your most generous holiday gifts to all staff members. Your contributions to this year's Holiday Cheer Fund exceeded even more than last year. Your support and encouragement means so much to us and our families.

***Test results from last week, plan for this week***

During the week of November 30, Smith Village conducted 438 tests, including 301 for employees who are tested twice a week. For residents, we conducted 38 tests in skilled nursing care, 64 in assisted living, none for independent living and one for a volunteer. We now have received all reports. Currently we still have two residents testing positive that are past their 14-day quarantine. We remain vigilant in following the guidelines to prevent the spread to others.

Again this week, we tested all employees on Monday and will test a second time 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.

***Concern about anticipated surge in Illinois***

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 7,910 new confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19, down from 8,691 reported yesterday. It is too soon for these recent tests to identify cases contracted during Thanksgiving weekend. Governor JB Pritzker addressed how the spike in people hospitalized for the virus is straining an already stressed healthcare system and worries about how hospitals will meet the anticipated surge of new COVID-19 patients and care for those with other healthcare needs.

On Sunday, December 6, the City of Chicago posted its seven-day positivity rate at 13.4 percent, up from 11.4 percent the week prior. On Saturday, the most recent data for our zip code, 60643, reported the City's 8.2 percent positivity rate, an increase from 7.5 percent seven days earlier.

***Plans for Christmas celebrations***

We look forward to sharing news about a variety of uplifting ways to brighten this year's Christmas season—which certainly is like no other any of us has experienced. By next Tuesday, we will publish a complete list of programs and activities designed to imbue our daily lives with holiday cheer.

We encourage families to start scheduling now their plans for virtual visits during the weeks leading into and following Christmas Day.

For this year's holiday season, however, Tier 3 guidelines remain in effect so we continue with our current practices

**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](mailto: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

***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 their apartment's thermostat to "fan" instead of "auto." We also installed industrial-strength HEPA air filters in assisted living common areas.

### ***Find comfort in taking the best precautions***

Please follow all Smith Village's precautions to abate the spread of COVID-19 within our community. They are guided by directives issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for 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 100<sup>0</sup> 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***

While we had hoped to welcome families to our campus for Christmas, it is not prudent to do so. We understand your disappointment. Please send your questions and suggestions to [COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org). A senior staff member, who monitors your messages, will ask the appropriate Smith Village employee to respond directly to you.

Please continue to tap your ingenuity and share your ideas as we create new ways to share the spirit of Christmas.

Best wishes,



Marti Jatis, Executive Director