



December 15, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

We're already embracing the spirit of Christmas with some great special events and celebrations throughout Smith Village.

In anticipation of the Holiday Parade sponsored by the Beverly Area Planning Association—with a caravan of more than 100 cars encircling our campus—starting at 11am this Saturday, December 19, residents throughout our community are decorating their windows to show our holiday spirit too.

***For independent living residents***

- Judging for our annual door decorating competition continues through this Friday, December 18
- Touring our neighborhood to see Christmas decorations—more plentiful and brighter this year—on our bus arranged for social distancing is slated for today and again on Thursday, December 17
- Savoring a bit of cheer from our holiday-themed Happy Hour Cart as it tours the hallways on Thursday, December 17
- Listening to the beautiful voices of dining and salon staff members as they sing Christmas carols strolling through the corridors

***For assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care residents***

- Playing Christmas-themed Bingo with lots of prizes today
- Sipping hot chocolate while making decorations and listening to music is planned for Tuesday, December 22
- Receiving goodie bags delivered by our Life Enrichment team on Wednesday, December 23
- Taking in a matinee featuring a Christmas movie and joining a sing-along are slated for Christmas Eve

And on the morning of Christmas Day, skilled nursing care and memory care residents will welcome Santa himself as he disburses gifts from staff members who were paired with residents for whom they purchased gifts.

***Report on new cases of the virus***

On Monday evening, we received a positive result for a housekeeper, who began experiencing symptoms of the virus this weekend and decided to get tested elsewhere. This staff member last worked in the assisted living wing at Smith Village on Friday, December 11.

Between December 6 and 12, Smith Village administered 259 tests for COVID-19. As you know, two employees and one third-party caregiver have received positive results for the virus and are recuperating at home.

For this same period, not a single resident—including 42 skilled nursing care, 56 assisted living and nine independent living—had a positive outcome.

All four individuals are at home recuperating from the virus and only will return in accordance with CDC standards. Please honor their privacy by observing HIPAA regulations.



Again this week, we tested all employees on Monday and will test them 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.

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 same-day testing for you here
- Visitors, please stay home

### ***Planning has begun for vaccinations here***

As you know from my recent letters and the story that is dominating the news this week, residents and employees at senior living communities are among the first in line to receive the vaccine produced by Pfizer and BioNTech. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health this afternoon, it is most likely that communities like ours and others with long-term care will begin to receive the vaccines during the week of December 28, 2020.

At this time, we are awaiting more specific directions and a date certain for the first date to be on our campus from Walgreens, our partner in administering the inoculations. Until then, there are a few ways we can expedite our process to ensure we have all the required information for every resident who wants to be vaccinated.

During this week, Smith Village staff members will

- Call the designated family member or POA for skilled nursing care and assisted living residents to secure verbal and written consent and confirm that all contact information is current and accurate in a resident's file
- Gauge interest of independent residents by asking them to confirm if they might like to be included—if vaccine is available to them—by signing up on sheets at both Reception Desks, which will help us estimate the number of shots to request

We will contact memory care residents' family members when we have more specific information from Walgreens.

Experts tell us that 80 percent participation is the optimum for those who agree to be vaccinated because it increases protection for everyone. We highly encourage everyone to take advantage of this priority treatment. If you have questions about adverse reactions, please check with your personal physician just like you would before taking a flu shot.

And if you decide to forgo this opportunity—when Walgreens will visit Smith Village three times to complete both dosages for residents and staff members—please know that your next opportunity to be vaccinated is likely to be no sooner than May 2021 as part of the general population in Illinois.

### ***Illinois' uptick in cases, reason to stay the course***

Today, media announced our country's national death toll of 301,438 people due to COVID-19, surpassing all records and placing the United States as the country with the most fatalities. Also, today the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 7,359 new confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19, up slightly from 7,214 reported yesterday.



For this year's holiday season, Smith Village continues to adhere to all Tier 3 guidelines, which remain in effect to protect everyone in our community.

**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

To improve airflow, all residents can set their apartment's thermostat to "fan" instead of "auto."

***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.

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.



### ***Christmastime connections***

We know that forgoing time together with family and friends this holiday season is very disappointing. This week, the CDC confirmed that small family gatherings are the most likely places for spreading the virus. So we encourage residents and their families to take advantage of numerous ways to plan virtual meetings.

For a timely response, please send your questions and suggestions to us at [COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org) so the appropriate Smith Village staff member can respond directly to you.

Together, we'll make this a happy, memorable holiday!

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

Marti Jatis  
Executive Director