



December 29, 2020

Dear Smith Village Family,

We will strengthen our community's ability to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 when Walgreens conducts its first clinic here on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, to administer the first dose of the Moderna vaccine to approximately 235 residents and 138 staff members at Smith Village.

Walgreens returns to our campus on Wednesdays, February 10 and March 10, to complete the two-dose vaccination protocol for those who are inoculated on January 13. In addition, residents and employees who were not available on January 13 still have time to receive both dosages. And those who were not living or working at Smith Village on our first clinic day will qualify to receive both doses of the vaccine.

Arming ourselves with this vaccine is a very meaningful way to abate the spread of the virus within our Smith Village community and beyond.

Independent living residents who indicated they would like the vaccine will receive a consent form to sign this week and return to Bridget Murphy, who will deliver and collect those for IL residents.

Meghan Maple will deliver and collect consent forms for assisted living residents. Last week, representatives for all skilled nursing care residents representatives signed consent for them using DocuSign®.

### ***Testing this week***

On Monday, December 28, we tested a total of 212 people including 121 staff members, 41 skilled nursing care residents and another 50 residents who live in other areas of our community.

Unfortunately, we have not received our Wednesday, December 23, test results as of this writing due to a delivery delay to the lab. Of course, we will report any positive results for COVID-19 as appropriate.

To comply with our bi-weekly mandate for all employees, we again will conducting tests for them tomorrow on Wednesday, December 30.

If independent living residents want to be tested, they should contact the Receptionist for a test on Wednesday.



When residents think they experience one or more symptoms of COVID-19, they should

- Limit interactions with others
- Contact me at extension 7314 or Meghan Maple at extension 5563 so we can expedite same-day testing for you here

### ***New Year's Eve and Day***

On New Year's Eve beginning at 1:30pm, Smith Village's Party Cart will tour our assisted living and memory care floors to deliver a choice of wine or sparkling grape juice served with cheese and crackers to all residents. Also on New Year's Eve, champagne with cheese and crackers is included on the menu for all independent living residents.

And on New Year's Day, everyone is invited to get in step with the new decade by tuning into a concert by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra aired on Channel 95 starting at 6:30pm.

### ***Illinois stays in Tier 3***

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 5,644 new and probable cases of COVID-19. This represents more than 1,000 additional cases since Monday's news of 4,453 cases. On Monday, Illinois surpassed 16,000 deaths as the toll that COVID-19 has taken on our citizens and their families.

Chicago's positivity rate on Monday, December 28, fell to 8.4 percent from 10.2 percent seven days earlier. For our zip code, 60643, the most recent positivity rate posted on Saturday, December 19, was 5.7 percent, down from 6.7 percent on December 12.

When looking to reduce restrictions, we should consider the record-breaking number of new cases in a single week—more than one million—reported nationwide last week. Just before Christmas, this data brought the total number of people infected to COVID-19 to more than 12 million.

As more people join the ranks of 112,000 already vaccinated in our State we have another reason for optimism. Decreasing positivity rates, offer a reason to be hopeful that the virus' spread is slowing in Illinois. If this downward trend is sustained, Governor JB Pritzker has stated IDPH and other experts will consider lifting some restrictions in early 2021.



### ***Our current practices designed to protect***

Please take advantage of numerous ways to plan virtual meetings. At Smith Village remain committed to following 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 window and 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

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



### ***Be savvy about employing safeguards***

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.

Everyone must 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.

Thank you for using [COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org) to communicate with us. This system makes it possible for a senior staff member to direct your questions and suggestions to the right person who will respond directly to you in a timely manner.

Together, let's put our own kind of "positivity" back into our daily lives as we chart new territory filled with enthusiasm and good health!

Wishing you and all who are dear to you a better 2021,



Marti Jatis  
Executive Director