



January 5, 2021

Dear Smith Village Family,

As we step into a new year and a new decade let us wholeheartedly pursue opportunities to put the threat of COVID-19 in our collective rearview mirror and to look forward with to our daily life filled with a fresh sense of optimism.

Walgreens first clinic day here next Thursday

As you already know, Walgreens' first clinic day to vaccinate all residents and employees, who completed their consent form, is confirmed for January 13. During the next several days, we expect to have more specific information about how to prepare and what to expect when you are vaccinated.

As soon as I have all the facts, I will send a separate advisory to everyone no later than Monday, January 11. We are grateful to you for being patient and flexible with this first round. Our contact at Walgreens has said the team has learned a lot from its initial experiences elsewhere and is making some adjustments that will improve efficiencies for us.

Please be sure to complete and sign your consent form no later than noon on Friday, January 8, so you can receive your first dose of the Moderna vaccine on Thursday, January 13.

If you have not yet done so, send your form to Bridget Murphy at BMurphy@SmithSeniorLiving.org or take it to the front desk.

Thank you for sharing some great questions about daily life at Smith Village for those who are properly vaccinated. Continue to send your questions to COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org. We are conferring with medical experts and plan to publish a list of questions and answers later this month. Even the experts are still learning!

Testing this week

Yesterday, we are conducted COVID-19 tests for staff members and will administer them again on Wednesday, January 6, to comply with the current bi-weekly mandate. And today, We completed tests for all residents living in healthcare settings. Independent living residents who want to be tested 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

Last week, we administered 323 COVID-19 tests to 226 employees, 43 skilled nursing care residents, 50 assisted living residents and four independent living residents. All received negative results.

On the road again

Starting today, Smith Village is providing bus service for independent living residents to take shopping trips to a single store each time. Destinations include County Fair, Jewel, Mariano's, Target and Walgreens.

Reservations are limited to six people for two separate trips at 11am and 1pm every Tuesday. The bus is thoroughly sanitized between trips. Call Bridget at 773-474-7649 to reserve your place. Please be sure to wear your face mask before arriving at the main entrance for your trip.

Illinois stays in Tier 3

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 6,839 new and probable cases of COVID-19, up considerably from 5,059 reported on Monday. Chicago's positivity rate on Sunday, January 3, rose to 10.2 percent, up from 8.6 percent reported on the last Sunday of 2020.

Governor JB Pritzker indicated with fewer number of cases suggesting a trend that the virus' spread may be slowing, Tier 3 restrictions will remain in place for some time during January.

He also stated progress is being made as 143,000 Illinois citizens already vaccinated. He also noted the prudence of staying the current course of precautions to afford time for the vaccines to take effect—typically two weeks after receiving both inoculations—and be confident that the recent downturn in the number of cases continues.

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
- 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."

For fun, be sure to tune into view Edwina Justice's photo and video retrospective of her 10 years living at Smith Village which airs today at 4pm and on Wednesday, January 6, at 7pm on Channel 95.

Also on Wednesday at 1pm on Channel 95, we will rebroadcast "Coping with COVID-19," an informative and helpful presentation by Smith Senior Living Board Chair Kay Thurn, who is a practicing psychologist.



If you are inspired by these program and might like to produce a program for Smith Village's new YouTube channel, please contact Bridget.

Be smart about using 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 to communicate with us. With this system you can count on the right staff member responding directly to you in a timely manner.

Very Truly Yours,



Marti Jatis
Executive Director