



January 12, 2021

Dear Smith Village Family,

As we imagine how our daily life might change once we have been vaccinated against COVID-19, I am sharing our thinking about the principles guiding our process for reopening our community during the next three months.

Our goal is to enliven our community with residents spending more time together, enjoying Smith Village's activities, amenities and programs. We balance this goal with our firm intention to not squander the sacrifices everyone has made since March 2020. So at Smith Village, we have begun planning with an incremental approach to reopening our campus.

Medical experts tell us it takes two or three weeks after people receive their second dose of a vaccine for it to reach its highest efficacy. Our third and final clinic slated for March 10 sets our timeline to late March for when we can begin to establish our "new normal" at Smith Village.

For now and the months ahead, it is critical for all of us to realize that the basic precautions—wear a mask; observe social distancing; practice hand-hygiene; and self-quarantine when necessary—remain our way of life even after the majority of people here have been inoculated.

Walgreens first clinic day here on Wednesday

With close to 350 being vaccinated here tomorrow, January 13, we take another important step to protect ourselves and each other from the virus.

If you have not yet submitted your consent form so Walgreens can inoculate you with the Moderna vaccine on this Wednesday, please bring your signed copy to the Receptionist today or this evening. If you are a family member who has not yet emailed your signed document, please send it no later than Tuesday evening to Yahaira Ramirez at YRamirez@SmithSeniorLiving.org. She will do her best to convince Walgreens to accommodate last-minute requests.

Complying with Tier 3 while planning for our "new normal"

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 6,642 new and probable cases of COVID-19, up by almost one-third from 4,776 on Monday.



Because medical experts still advise extreme caution while incidences of the virus surge, we do not want to find ourselves reinstating constraints after we have removed them. While Illinois remains subject to Tier 3 restrictions, Governor JB Pritzker's experts are studying when to remove some which will apply to us as soon as City of Chicago, Region 11, meets their requirements.

Nonetheless, Smith Village is beginning to offer a mix of virtual and in-person programs. Independent living residents are reminded to call extension 7649 to sign-up for

- Neighborhood shopping excursions on Smith Village's bus to Walgreens on Tuesday today and look for next week's destination in our calendar
- Playing Wii Bowling, watching movies and requesting a Bingo card

Please check our daily calendars so you know when to tune into Channel 95 airing programs that feature some of our own talent. Benefit from yoga classes; learn more about the history of Smith Village during the last decade; and enjoy the music of Rodgers & Hammerstein or a tour of the Louvre. And Channel 36 continues to offer many familiar programs from a spotlight of a new residents to Bingo and balance classes.

Assisted living residents also can look forward to watching a movie shown on Tuesdays and joining block parties on Fridays in the hallways outside their apartments. They also can share good news on Wednesday and toast any Thursday with our Happy Hour. And the weekends brighten with hallway visits with Smitty and Smith Village's hospitality cart.

Even with more activity in our community, we adhere to these precautions

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

We ask all resident to set their apartment's thermostat to "fan" instead of "auto" to improve airflow.

Adjusting this week's test schedule; four positive results last week

Yesterday, we conducted COVID-19 tests for staff members and will administer them again on Thursday, January 14, to comply with the current bi-weekly mandate. Today, we completed tests for all residents in healthcare settings, as well as independent living residents who asked to be tested.

During the week of January 4, Smith Village administered a total of 306 tests including 208 for employees, 50 for assisted living residents, 43 for skilled nursing care residents, four for independent living residents and one for a volunteer. I already informed you about four staff members who received positive results last week. All are recuperating at home and will return to work in accordance with HIPAA guidelines.

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



Keep 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.

We appreciate how you use COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org to communicate with us. This way, you can count on the right staff member responding directly to you in a timely manner.

Looking forward to seeing a full house during our first clinic day in the Main Dining Room. Thank you for doing your part.

Very Truly Yours,



Marti Jatis
Executive Director