



January 19, 2021

Dear Smith Village Family,

We are pleased to report the success of our first clinic here last Wednesday when residents and employees received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine. I also am grateful to report that very few people had mild reactions to the vaccine, and we hope employees who had taken a “wait and see” approach might reconsider their decision.

Even though there are valid reasons a few could not participate, 93 percent of all our residents chose to be inoculated, setting a gold standard for others.

Residents	Number vaccinated	Total number of residents
Independent Living	129	140
Assisted Living	36	38
AL Memory Support	23	23
Skilled Nursing Care	38	42

Of the 277 Smith staff members on our campus, 126 or 44 percent received their first dose, placing the workforce on Smith Village’s campus above the nationwide average of 40 percent for employees of senior living communities.

Walgreens requires a fresh consent form for our second clinic day confirmed for Wednesday, February 10. Our goal is to have all forms signed no later than Monday, February 1.

- We already have signed forms from most people who participated in the clinic in our Main Dining Room, and will contact individuals who need to complete theirs.
- Family members and POAs should look for an email this week so they can complete and return the consent form using DocuSign.
- In addition, there is still time for current and new staff members as well as new residents to register to receive their first dose of the Moderna vaccine during our second onsite clinic. Anyone who does will receive their second dose on Wednesday, March 10.

Testing protocols

Smith Village has resumed its regular schedule of testing employees on Mondays and Wednesdays in Room 1207. We conduct tests for residents in our healthcare settings in their rooms on Tuesdays. Independent living residents who would like to schedule a test should contact the Receptionist. ►

Last week, all 264 individuals—182 employees; 48 assisted living, 34 skilled nursing care and one independent living residents—tested at Smith Village received a negative result. On Friday, I reported a positive outcome for a member of Smith’s leadership team who was tested elsewhere and only on our campus for a few hours.

Data and decisions will change daily life here

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 4,318 new and probable cases of COVID-19, up from 3,385 on Monday. Some of the daily variances are due to how weekends affect the number of tests conducted and processed. And certain factors have begun to trend downward: On January 9, the most recent report for the Chicago’s positivity rate was posted at 7.7 percent, down from 10.3 percent seven days earlier.

As you know, all of us have been living with Tier 3 restrictions, the most restrictive, since November 20. Some Regions designated by the State’s COVID-19 plan will begin to ease or lift some restrictions as early as this Friday. Yesterday, Governor JB Pritzker and Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced their plan to lift some of restrictions in Chicago even before our Region meets the State’s criterion for available hospital capacity.

In anticipation, we have begun planning safe and enjoyable ways to begin to open common areas—starting most likely with dining rooms and some small group activities—in the springtime. One of our primary benchmarks for doing so will be approximately two or three weeks after March 10, our third and final clinic day for administering the vaccine at Smith Village.

As we prepare to move to Tier 2, we welcome the opportunity to reopen portions of our campus, but balance the enjoyment of those experiences with the fact today the United States has surpassed 400,000 deaths caused by COVID-19. So we must continue to employ basic precautions—wear a mask; observe social distancing; practice hand-hygiene; and self-quarantine when necessary—even after the majority of people here have been inoculated.

We now offer a mix of virtual and in-person programs. Please check your daily calendars for details.

Independent living residents should call extension 7649 to sign-up for

- Neighborhood shopping excursions on Smith Village’s bus on Tuesdays
- Playing Wii Bowling, watching movies and requesting a Bingo card



Oakhaven assisted living residents can enjoy

- Watching a movie on Tuesdays
- Toasting daily victories during Happy Hour on Thursdays
- Joining block parties in the hallways outside their apartments on Fridays
- Visiting with Smitty and stopping at the hospitality cart on weekends

Skilled nursing care residents can plan

- Window and virtual visits with residents by contacting Lisa Madsen at LMadsen@SmithSeniorLiving.org

If and 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

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.

Please send your questions to COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org so the right staff member responding directly to you in a timely manner.

Looking forward to seeing each other in more areas of Smith Village soon.

Sincerely,



Marti Jatis
Executive Director