



January 26, 2021

Dear Smith Village Family,

We are charting the course for our community's emergence from enduring a sequestered lifestyle mandated by the real threat of COVID-19. Our initial plan provides ways to offer fresh experiences of our Smith Village lifestyle.

Let us pause and remember this past Sunday, January 24, was the first anniversary of Illinois' first case of COVID-19. Together, we navigated an unprecedented challenge with so many unknowns.

Now, the time is right to move forward. While doing so, fidelity to balancing our twin goals—protecting the well-being of everyone and providing ways to enjoy what makes living in our community so appealing and energizing—remains paramount.

### ***Plans to reopen some programs and places on the horizon***

We believe with more than 93 percent of residents receiving their second inoculation of Moderna during our second clinic on Wednesday, February 10 we can plan for reopening some programs and venues.

Smith Village's ambitious reopening plan with in-person visits, a variety of engaging activities and meals served in dining rooms for independent and assisted living residents will begin during the week starting the week of February 14. Of course, these plans must follow the yet-to-be-published guidelines from the Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health, which we expect to have very soon.

### ***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.

During the week of January 17, we administered 317 tests, including 202 for employees, three for independent living residents, 76 for assisted living residents because we completed additional tests as part of our contact tracing procedure, 35 for skilled nursing care residents and one for a volunteer.

Last Friday, January 22, I reported positive outcomes for an assisted living memory support resident and an EVS staff member. Both are recovering with no symptoms. 

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

### ***Preparation for second clinic on February 10***

Consent forms for receiving the second dose of Moderna will be emailed to family members and POAs for select residents this week. Will you please use our DocuSign system for signing and returning them?

We are contacting the few residents and employees, who participated in the first clinic but have not submitted their signed consent forms for their second dose. Plus anyone who wants to register for a first dose of Moderna must complete a consent form. If you have any questions, please contact me.

### ***Trending to fewer cases in Illinois***

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 3,667 new and probable cases of COVID-19, up from 2,944 on Monday. Some daily variances are due to how weekends affect the number of tests conducted and processed. Yesterday, IDPH reported its statewide daily positivity rate of 3.7 percent—the lowest rate since October 19, when 3,519 new cases were reported.

Tier 3 restrictions, which were in place since November 20, have been lifted for all 11 Regions across Illinois. The City of Chicago, Region 11, has advanced to Tier 1 mitigations which guide our current plans.

Chicago's seven-day rolling positivity rate dropped to 6.6 percent from 7.7 percent seven days earlier. And as of Saturday, January 23, our zip code, 60643, did even better with a positivity rate decreasing to 4 percent from 4.9 percent seven days prior.

Still, we should be vigilant about an increase in cases caused by variants of the virus, which numbered eight in Illinois on Monday. Experts indicate the current vaccines can guard against these new variants as well.

Until we complete our second clinic and allow appropriate time for the vaccine to reach its peak effect, Smith Village provides variety of virtual and in-person programs. Please check your daily calendars for details.



**Independent living residents** should call extension 7649 to sign-up for programs as designated on their daily calendar

- Wednesday, January 27, Yoga class, Wii Bowling, watching *Always Be My Maybe*
- Thursday, January 28, virtual Resident Council meeting on Channel 36, plus a variety of virtual classes from functional to brain fitness, online session with Smart Tech Seniors, virtual Bingo and watching *Radium Girls*
- Friday, January 29, watching BBC Proms: *Hooray for Hollywood*, participating in Yoga and cardio endurance classes and joining a discussion group about a short story by O 'Henry
- Saturday, January 30, time to watch *March to Freedom* and *Golden Age meets Uptown Funk* on Channel 95

**Oakhaven assisted living residents** can enjoy

- Playing Trivia and Bingo on Mondays
- Discussing news, joining a fitness class and Wii Bowling, and saying the Rosary on Tuesdays
- Enjoying a movie, playing word games on Wednesday
- 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
- A variety of special programs and events designed to appeal to residents who live on each floor

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.

Very truly yours,



Marti Jatis  
Executive Director