



February 2, 2021

Dear Smith Village Family,

The City of Chicago has moved to Tier 1 mitigations, a significant decrease in restrictions imposed with Tier 3 which began on November 20, 2020. During a series of 14-day waiting periods, we can advance to reopening even more places and programs for residents if there are no outbreaks of the virus here. We will begin reopening venues and adding activities in the coming weeks this month and expand them during March to achieve our goal to provide ways to relish more of everyday life here.

***Preparation for second clinic on Wednesday, February 10***

Last Thursday, we sent emails to family members and POAs asking them to authorize the second dose of Moderna for select residents. If you have not already done so, please use our DocuSign system and return your signed form no later than noon on Wednesday, February 3.

Also residents or staff members who have decided to get their first dose of the Moderna vaccine must complete a consent form by midday tomorrow. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Our community's tremendous response to being vaccinated against COVID-19 is a testament to our collective will to make choices that not only protect ourselves but also consider the well-being of others. The most recent good news from experts is that the Moderna vaccine also protects us against the three new variants of the virus now in the United States.

While it is very important to be vaccinated, residents and their families as well as employees still need to wear a mask and observe Smith Village's other established precautions.

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

With the decrease in the number of new cases and positivity rates as well as reduced strain on hospitals, the State of Illinois and City of Chicago are peeling back several restrictions over a period of time.

We have been working with the Chicago Department of Public Health to manage myriad details necessary to reopen some programs and venues. It is a big plus that more than 93 percent of residents will receive their second inoculation of Moderna during our second clinic.

Smith Village's priorities include more in-person visits, more in-person activities for groups of 10 people and meals served in dining rooms set for limited capacities to ensure the safety of independent and assisted living residents. We will begin to implement some of our initial plan during the week of February 14.

Starting today, CDPH authorized us to offer again outdoor visits (weather permitting) for assisted living and skilled nursing care residents.

To arrange outdoor visits, hearty Midwestern families should contact

- Meghan Maple at [MMaple@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:MMaple@SmithSeniorLiving.org) for assisted living residents
- Lisa Madsen at [LMadsen@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:LMadsen@SmithSeniorLiving.org) for rehab and skilled nursing care residents who also can plan "window" visits

For those who prefer the comforts of indoors, please take advantage of our staff support for setting up virtual visits using Facetime and other platforms.

Independent living residents are encouraged to welcome visitors to their apartments after their guests are screened at the Reception Desk.

### ***Testing protocols***

Smith Village has been approved to reduce employee testing to weekly from bi-weekly starting this week. During this transition week, we tested on Monday a total of 94 people by administering PCR tests to 37 skilled nursing care, 54 assisted living and two independent living residents plus one volunteer. Of the 178 employees tested, 77 received the rapid test with negative results for all of them; another 101, the PCR test.

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; independent living residents should contact the Receptionist

### ***More programs and activities, dining rooms reopen this month***

As you read in my letter last Tuesday, we are adding more activities as we anticipate our reopening.

- ***Independent living residents***, please tune into Channel 3 to see the daily agendas and weekly calendars for activities and bus trips.

- **Assisted living residents**, please tune into Channel 4 to see the daily agendas and weekly calendars for activities and bus trips.
- **Families and friends who registered to receive emails** can check the calendars for this week for all residents at the end of this letter.

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

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health reported 2,304 new and probable cases of COVID-19, close to the 2,312 reported yesterday.

On January 31, Chicago reported a 5.6 percent positivity rate, down from 6.9 percent seven days prior; our zip code, 60643, also benefits from a significant decline to 3.7 from 4.9 percent a week ago.

### ***In closing***

We share your anticipation as we collaborate to revitalize our community lifestyle at Smith Village. Let us continue to be prudent and savvy about protecting all the progress we have made too.

Please take a moment to reflect on how residents, staff members, third-party providers and their families have demonstrated their heartfelt commitment to community through their sacrifices and responsiveness to numerous changes in our protocols since March of 2020. We recognize your valor during this unprecedented time and thank you for your cooperation as we move forward.

Please send your questions to [COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org](mailto:COVID19SmithVillage@SmithSeniorLiving.org) so the staff member, who can best respond, contacts you directly. We also welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Looking forward to seeing each other out and about very soon.

Very truly yours,



Marti Jatis  
Executive Director

*See Weekly Calendars on next page.*

# Weekly Calendars

Independent Living

Assisted Living

Assisted Living

Memory Care

Skilled Nursing

1st Floor

Skilled Nursing

2nd Floor

Skilled Nursing

3rd Floor