

## **Covid-19 Update**

Ballou Life Communities has always operated with the goal of infection control and prevention. This has significantly changed and expanded during the current Covid-19 Pandemic. Every fall we offer and provide flu vaccines to our residents and staff and have been able to keep our facility flu free for the past two years including during this current pandemic. We are closely following all mandates and protocols from the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), CDC and CMS related to Covid-19 and will continue to do so. Our infection control policies and procedures have undergone intense scrutiny and incorporated all requirements and mandates, as new information is forthcoming; it is absorbed and put in place.

We have closed for visitation since March 11, 2020, which has been a hardship for everyone involved. Our staff and particularly our activities director have done phenomenal jobs in keeping families in touch with each other through FaceTime and Facebook updates. Additionally, Tina has kept them entertained daily which is a feat in and of itself. She also includes the staff and helps keep our morale up. The dietary department has nourished the taste buds and souls of both the residents and staff. Housekeeping has been outstanding, cleaning and cleaning and did I mention cleaning. Finally yet importantly, our nursing and CNA staff have not missed a beat, a more dedicated crew could not be asked for, these girls are beyond compare. The residents are family to us and we consider it an honor that you have entrusted their care to us, Thank you.

We have been temping and monitoring our staff, visitors and residents since March 7, 2020 and will continue to do so until it is no longer a necessity. As aforementioned, we are not allowing visitors, when the state of Rhode Island “reopens” we will update you through Facebook, letters and phone calls on the facility specific policy. We still need to be vigilant and protect our vulnerable residents and the staff caring for your loved ones.

Unfortunately, we did have Covid-19 in the facility. In mid-March, three of our administrative staff were diagnosed, all have since fully recovered and are doing well. We had one resident in early April test positive, she has since fully recovered and is doing well. RIDOH had us test all the residents and staff on the floor with the positive case, all were negative, a second round of

testing was negative as well. Approximately 2 weeks later RIDOH had us test the balance of the facility, one staff member and five residents tested positive, all were asymptomatic and have since tested negative times two. We will continue to test residents and staff per RIDOH protocol. Staff personally notified families of the Covid-19 infections and will continue to do so should the need arise. Presently, we are Covid-19 free! We continue with the utmost vigilance to monitor ourselves and the residents for any signs and symptoms. While our doors remain shuttered, we remain open to calls and any cares or concerns that you may have. Please feel free to reach out at any time.

Administrator: Barry Zeltzer

Director of Nursing: Dennis Ayotte

MDS: Constance Landry

Activities: Tina Senecal

Social Worker: Jocelyn Dubois

Infection Control: Ruth A. Daly