

Facebook Covid-19 Update #3

May 29, 2020

It is hard to believe that another week has come and gone. As previously mentioned in our last update, we tested the whole facility both residents and staff for Covid-19 via nasopharyngeal swab. This occurred on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 minus 5 staff that could not come in that day. All staff are negative and all residents are negative with one test still pending. We will provide further updates once those results come in. We now have been Covid-19 free since May 11, 2020.

Infection control remains a constant in our daily lives. Handwashing is paramount, alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) is available throughout the facility along with soap and water. Face masks (surgical) are required by all and have been in use since 3/22/20. N95 masks and other appropriate PPE were worn while positive cases of Covid-19 were in the facility. We screen staff prior to entering the facility and again every four hours worked. Should staff show any signs or symptoms prior to entry, they are told to stay home or are sent home and required to be tested or be seen by their doctor with a note allowing them to return to work. Any essential personnel that come into the facility are also screened prior to entry being allowed. The residents are screened every shift and more frequently should we note any signs and symptoms that are concerning.

As we continue along the continuum for “reopening”, BallouLife Communities remains steadfast in our commitment to keeping your loved ones safe and healthy. Life as we knew “before Covid” will not be the same. We are formulating plans to reopen for communal dining and activities; again these will be socially distanced and by floors.

The outdoor patio will open up again with staff sitting with the residents biding by social distancing and segregating floors. Visitation will be scheduled, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3 pm, limited to an hour and to only two (2) visitors at any given time. Visitors will be screened and must wear a facemask as will your loved one; visits will be in an assigned area. Our goal is to reunite you with your family but with the utmost consideration given for their safety and yours. As the time for this draws nearer, we will reach out to you to solidify dates and times. Bear in mind that should conditions change in the state or community, we must react to those changes and follow State of Rhode Island (RIDOH) and CMS/CDC mandates.

The residents are happy and healthy, looking forward to seeing their families again as are we, you are missed. Tina has done a spectacular job keeping you socially connected with Face Time, Connie as well with care plans. Jocelyn has been reaching out to both the residents and families and has been keeping you updated on the testing as it evolves. I remain steadfast in keeping everyone safe. Team Ballou is at your service.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN, Infection Prevention