

## Facebook Covid-19 Update #5

June 12, 2020

BallouLife Communities, once again continues to remain Covid-19 free, five (5) weeks at this time. Our last baseline testing, which included both residents and staff was 100 percent negative. Having said that, we did have two staff members spike low grade temps, both have been swabbed and results are pending. I have spoken with our contact at the RIDOH, and while I don't have a date for our next round of testing, it will be staff only, approximately every 7-10 days. The residents will be swabbed, only if symptomatic or if there is an outbreak with staff. The nasal pharyngeal swab is quite invasive and uncomfortable, and our aim is to reduce swabbing of our residents.

As mentioned last week, we had our Infection Control Survey by RIDOH on Wednesday, June 3, 2020. This is mandated by CMS for each state. The onus on Infection Control is directly related to the Covid-19 outbreak. We have not received the official report, but I did receive a verbal confirmation that we are deficiency free. We do not intend to rest on our laurels and will continue to pursue on-going infection prevention. I'm constantly researching and reading up on how to prevent infections; the information on Covid-19 is constantly changing daily, as more is learned about it.

The staff are handwashing champions, PPE donners and doffers extraordinaire.

As we continue to look forward to Phase 3 for reopening, we are formulating an internal reopening. Our plan is to reopen the main dining room for meals next week. The dining area will be deep-cleaned prior to use. The tables will be distanced 6 feet apart, one resident per table. We will alternate days, so that both floors can partake in communal dining. We are not mixing the floors at this time. The residents that don't go to the dining room will partake in "doorway dining" just like our doorway Bingo! After each meal, the dining area will be thoroughly cleaned. The kitchen staff is looking forward to seeing and serving the Ballou family once again.

We look forward to a gentle return of normalcy.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ruth A. Daly, RN, Infection Preventionist**