

Facebook Covid-19 Update #9

July 10, 2020

BallouLife Communities staff continue to have weekly testing. The testing done July 2, 2020 is negative for all staff with three results still pending. We have already swabbed and sent to the lab tests from July 9, 2020. The staff member that had tested positive still remains out of the facility; she is being followed by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and will return to work when RIDOH allows. The other two staff have been swabbed and the results are still pending as part of the three mentioned previously. If they test negative they will be allowed to return to work as they have been free of any symptoms of Covid-19. We did have another staff member report that a relative had tested positive for Covid-19. She was wearing PPE but will remain out of work as an overabundance of caution for fourteen (14) days. Her test results on July 2, 2020 were negative and she was swabbed on July 9, 2020 as a drive by at the facility; she was not allowed in the building. Another staff member has had to fly out of state to take care of family. She will self-isolate for fourteen (14) days upon her return and will be swabbed and must test negative prior to re-entry to the facility. We are doing our utmost to keep everyone safe and healthy and allow our staff a life outside of work.

As you know we did open for visitation this week on Wednesday, July 8, 2020. It has gone extremely well. The ear to ear grins may have been hidden by masks, but the eyes were shining brightly on both the resident and family faces. The half hour flew by far too fast but believe me the residents were very pleased to see their family. I know it is hard not to be able to hug and kiss but your love and kindness emanated all over each other and the whole building. It brought happy tears to my eyes to see families reconnecting. Believe me when I say we miss you maybe not as much as your loved ones but we miss you too as we consider you part of the BallouLife family.

The one issue that has come about is entering the facility. Please refrain from getting out of your cars and walking around the parking lot. Call us when you arrive and we will let you know when it is okay to come into the facility. Again, I know you are eager to visit but we must be safe. Also, upon leaving I know that the next family has arrived and you haven't seen each other for a long time but again please refrain from chatting in the parking lot.

We have hired an additional staff member to help with the visitations. She has to go through all the background checks and meet health and safety guidelines before she can start. Hopefully, this will occur quickly and we can get her acclimated and be able to expand the number of visitations per day.

The furniture and room divider have not yet arrived but the temporary setting seems to be working out well.

Tina will continue with FaceTime calls and keeping the residents happily engaged in activities. She is doing a marvelous job as evidenced by all the photos that mysteriously show up on the BallouLife Facebook page. Doorway Bingo is going on as I write this memo.

We are in the process of negotiations with our hairdresser; she has been taking care of family while on hiatus and is unable to come back to the facility until September. Should anything change with that, we will keep you informed. Our current podiatrist will no longer be coming to the facility and we are in negotiations with another, again we will keep you updated. Wisdom Tooth, the dental practice that sees the residents has been in touch to ensure that they can safely resume seeing the residents once again. We are slowly moving along the continuum; we are the tortoise and not the hare, but the tortoise won the race and so hopefully will we.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN, Infection Preventionist