

Facebook Covid-19 Update #17

September 4, 2020

BallouLife Communities, once again for another week, remains Covid-19 free. The results from last week's swabs were all negative. Some of this week's results have started to come in and at this time, all are negative. Let us hope that this trend continues. As schools start to reopen, there is the concern for an increased rate of infection. Hopefully, Rhode Island will buck the trend and remain stable.

As we progress along the continuum of testing, more people are coming under the title of "Facility Staff." This includes employees, consultants, contractors, volunteers, and caregivers who provide care and service to residents on behalf of the facility.

For the purpose of testing "individuals providing services under arrangement and volunteers," facilities should prioritize those individuals who are regularly in the facility (e.g., weekly) and have contact with residents or staff. We note that the facility may have a provision under its arrangement with a vendor or volunteer that requires them to be tested from another source (e.g., their employer or on their own). However, the facility is still required to obtain documentation that the required testing was completed during the timeframe that corresponds to the facility's testing frequency.

We continue to address the needs of the residents. Podiatry care has resumed, and all residents were seen and treated on August 28, 2020. As long as there is no Covid-19 in the facility, the podiatrist will see the residents on a quarterly basis or if needed emergent. Our hairdresser has just been tested this past week, and once negative results are received, she will tend to the hairdressing needs on a weekly basis. Of course, this is all dependent on us remaining Covid-19 free. We are looking into resuming Optical and Dental care. As I have mentioned previously, baby steps. Unfortunately, our audiologist has made the decision not to come back into the facility, and we are looking to fill this void.

Therapy has been coming in since June and tending to our residents' well-being. They are of great assistance to us, providing care and getting the residents' self-care, ambulation, and positioning needs to their highest level of functioning. Covid-19 test results have been provided by them and are updated on a weekly basis.

Visitation continues to go well. A heartfelt "thank you" for remaining in your cars, until given the all clear to come into the facility. As always, stay safe, wash your hands, wear your mask, and maintain social distancing.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN,
Infection Preventionist