

## Facebook Covid-19 Update #23

October 16, 2020

Hallelujah, BallouLife Communities is once again Covid-19 free. We had a few staff showing cold signs and symptoms. Unfortunately, we all immediately wonder if it is Covid-19. Fortunately, we have a Point of Care testing machine at the facility and I am able to test and have results within fifteen minutes, and all results have been negative and have been followed up with our weekly PCR nasal pharyngeal swabs that were done for this week. They have been picked up by the lab and have started the processing timeframe.

We have received the written report from the Rhode Island Department of Health for the Covid-19 Focused Infection Control survey that was conducted at the facility on September 30, 2020. I am pleased to say that no deficiencies were identified during this survey. We have worked diligently to keep the residents, the staff and you, our families, safe during your visits to our facility to see your loved ones.

Rhode Island is continuing to see an uptick in Covid-19 cases. The positivity rate is 2.06% as of October 16, 2020. This has been consistently showing a slow steady gradual growth. The governor has held conferences these past two days related to this concerning number. The statistics are showing that the biggest growth is from small informal gatherings in peoples' homes. Additionally, with Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's coming up, this could become a serious problem. This is not just Rhode Island, but national as well; included is an article from Medscape supporting this. If you do have gatherings, remember wash your hands, and if the people do not live in your home, wear a mask and socially distance. These situations are difficult, as we feel safe, but this is where the virus thrives, as we move life back indoors.

We had a generously donated surprise concert by the Martone Brothers on Thursday, October 15, 2020. Mother Nature cooperated and the residents enjoyed either being outside on the patio or up in the activity room (socially distanced and wearing masks). Cranberry Mimosas were enjoyed by all. Tina uploaded the photos from this yesterday on Facebook, and everyone had smiles on their faces and drinks in their hands. The music reverberated throughout the surrounding neighborhood with our neighbors enjoying the concert as well.

The residents have exercised their right to vote, and once again, Tina ensured that this process went smoothly. She handled the whole process from beginning to end. We also participated in the annual census so that our voices will be counted.

As always, wash your hands, wear your facemask, and socially distance.  
Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN,  
Infection Preventionist