

Facebook Covid-19 Update #27

November 13, 2020

Another week has come and gone. As you all have been informed, we did have a staff member test positive but fortunately this person had been out of the facility for another reason for three plus weeks; therefore, no exposure to the residents or staff occurred. This is precisely why we do our weekly testing. This person had come in for drive-by weekly tests and this is how it was caught, totally asymptomatic.

This disease is insidious. We take guarding your loved ones very seriously. Other than that one test result, the balance of the staff tested negative. We have swabbed once again for the week and the swabs have been picked up by the lab. The staff is healthy this week, no sniffles at all, and no rapid tests required.

We have registered with CMS for the Covid-19 vaccine, which was required by all nursing homes. The good news this week is that the vaccine appears to be looming on the horizon rather soon. As we garner more information, we will pass this onto you.

The bad news is that since last week, the county positivity rate has continued to climb. For Providence County, which Woonsocket is included, now stands at 20.2%; last week this number was 18.7%. Bristol County is at 23.8%, Kent County 16.2%, Newport County 7.3% and Washington County 9.0%. The trend is not looking good.

Governor Raimondo held her weekly conference yesterday. She continues to reiterate the same message; stay within your small social circle, wear a mask, wash your hands, and socially distance. She also had three doctors from three different hospitals, as guest speakers, providing a first responder input into her message. They are seeing more of a surge than we did in the spring and talking of the distinct possibility of opening a field hospital in Cranston. We avoided this previously, but if we don't heed the message, this will happen. Everyone has pandemic fatigue, but we must dig deep within ourselves and do what is right for all.

The Governor will be announcing Thanksgiving guidelines next week, but given the numbers, I don't see any changes happening. Stay home, don't travel, and have a small turkey. Guidelines for Thanksgiving and ways to celebrate are on the CDC and RIDOH websites. We all look forward to family gatherings, but this year is beyond the norm and we must stand united and strong.

As always, wash your hands, wear a mask, and socially distance. A caveat to wearing your mask is to wear one in your home, if there is someone visiting who does not live in your home; this is where the virus seems to be gaining a foothold, so please remain vigilant.

Respectfully Submitted,
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Infection Preventionist