

Facebook Covid-19 Update #38

January 29, 2021

First and foremost, my apologies for not being more visible for the past two weeks for the update, as you know BallouLife Communities has been in the midst of a Covid-19 crisis. Words cannot express the heartbreak that has occurred here. We have always considered everyone family and the complete devastation of loss is not anything that one can comprehend. My heart is truly broken as everyone else; we have lost eight of our treasured family members, and this is just overwhelmingly beyond comprehension. We had a total of twenty nine out of thirty three residents contract Covid-19 with four residents holding strong and negative. The ailing residents are slowly turning the corner and hopefully will be well soon. We have worked very hard to support them in their time of need.

We offered the best treatment that we could; Monoclonal Antibody (MAB) infusions at an outside field hospital, a shout out to Kent Hospital for this provided service. We also did several infusions at the facility at the onset of the outbreak. We continue to provide all the appropriate care that we can to support them in their battle with Covid-19. It has been hectic to say the least.

As you know, our staff was also completely decimated by the virus, and forty-one staff have come down with Covid-19. Some were lucky enough to have minor symptoms, others were quite ill and are still recovering. Little by little, they are trickling back into work, and it does my heart good to see them return. Hopefully in the next week or two, we will be in better shape. We will find our way through the grief, support one another, and find our new normal.

I can't say enough to thank all of the agency staff who have helped us through and continue to help us through this critical period of time; without them we would not have survived. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude. You have stepped up and kept our residents in their home.

Our Covid-19 vaccine clinic that was originally scheduled for January 19th was cancelled and rescheduled for January 27th, which was once again cancelled and rescheduled for February 1st. This being done so that those who tested positive would be outside of their 10-14 day isolation and have the opportunity to receive the vaccine. Those who did have the MAB treatment will have to wait out a 90-day period before they can be vaccinated. Staff have been able to sign up for their vaccines at clinics held at Landmark.

We have been working very closely with the Rhode Island Department of Health during this time. We are following all directives provided to us. Testing has been a priority with PCR testing every other day, supplemented with the rapid testing. Now that the significant outbreak is over, we have slowed down to twice weekly testing and rapid testing for symptomatic only. Should we continue to remain negative, we will go back to weekly testing. I pray that we are over this. Thank you to all the families who have reached out with kind words; it truly means so very much. It has kept me going through all of this.

As always, wash your hands, wear a mask, socially distance, and keep your family circle small.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth A. Daly, RN,
Infection Preventionist