

Facebook Covid-19 Update #33

December 25, 2020

BallouLife Communities has once again survived another week Covid-19 free. All of the residents and all of the staff have tested negative for Covid-19. This has been a trying week as some of our staff had family members test positive for Covid-19. The staff involved, all tested negative last week. Point of Care (POC) testing was done on all of them this week to provide them with a sense of safety and security; they are all still negative at this time. Additionally, they had the standard PCR testing done; drive by testing so that they did not enter the facility. They are all healthy and showing no signs or symptoms of Covid-19. They have remained out of work and will return after the beginning of the New Year. I ask that you all keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

We continue our weekly swabbing of the residents and our staff. This was a short week for the testing interval due to Christmas and next week, the same due to New Year's Day; so our testing moved up a couple of days. This has been a hectic week to put it mildly, as we had to scramble with our scheduling with the aforementioned staff out; just want to say, we didn't miss a beat.

Christmas presents have been arriving daily. These residents are having a wonderful holiday. We had lots of fun opening their presents with them. Just want to thank the families for thinking of the staff as well; we truly appreciate your gifts of food and spirits- although our waistlines might not be quite so happy but our tummies are very appreciative.

We have been receiving back the Covid-19 vaccination permission packets; please if you haven't returned it yet, make a concerted effort to do so. I haven't received our date from Walgreens yet but they should be letting me know soon as the roll out for the nursing homes is December 28th. Again, this will entail three clinics with staggered vaccinations, so should any side effects be noted, we will be able to manage it by ensuring staff and residents are not all done at once. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call us with these and if we do not have the answer, we will ensure that we find out what you need and provide a response. RIDOH and CDC have been putting out a lot of information. These are very good sources for you to utilize. I receive information from them almost daily.

The numbers in Rhode Island continue to trend downward; we are going in the right direction, and please let us hope that there is not a Christmas or New Year's bump. We must remain vigilant and keep our guards up.

Wear your mask, wash your hands and socially distance. Please try to keep the holiday gatherings small and if you don't live with them, wear a mask to protect everyone you love. This will be my first Christmas without our traditional family Christmas Eve party but there is always next year to look forward to or maybe a Christmas party mid-year. Celebrate wisely.

Tina made a concerted effort to ensure as many FaceTime calls as possible on Christmas Eve day. I don't think she had a minute to herself. Tiffany prepared Christmas Eve and Christmas day meals; she was going to have Prime Rib for Christmas Eve but the residents stated French Meat Pie was the traditional choice, so that is what they got along with a Buche de Noel for dessert.

Today, they had a choice of Baked Ham or Stuffed Haddock with Pecan Pie for dessert. Tina once again outdid herself to make the tables and ambiance festive; if she wasn't our activity director she could be an interior decorator. There is never a doubt as to what holiday it is at Ballou. Enjoy the festive photos on FaceBook.

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