

Facebook Covid-19 Update #40

February 12, 2021

BallouLife Communities has unfortunately lost another two residents. This is so hard to fathom. We were at a total of thirty-three residents on January 14, 2021 when the Covid-19 pandemic entered our facility. Twenty-nine were diagnosed with Covid-19, and four remain covid-free to this date. We now are at twenty-two residents. This is devastating, not only to the immediate families, but to all us here. We share in their heart-wrenching loss. We have loved and cared for your family members, as if they were our own. The conversations that have been held have broken all of our collective hearts. Please accept our sincerest condolences. As I have previously said, we will carry on; our commitment to the remaining residents has not changed, and if anything, this has made us more determined to take care of them to an even higher standard of care.

Our staff continue to trickle in, and out of the forty-two staff who were struck ill by Covid-19, eight remain out at this time. They are recovering, but the disease has taken its toll on them, although most will be returning, hopefully, within the next week. Unfortunately, with the testing that was done yesterday on February 11, 2021, one more staff member tested positive bringing our total staff affected to forty-three. As this staff person last worked in the building last weekend, there was very limited exposure and we have tested twice since then with no other positive results. We will continue to follow Rhode Island Department of Health guidelines for testing.

Several of the staff have had their first dose of the vaccine, some the second dose; so far twenty-eight have been vaccinated. Landmark Medical Center has been generous in helping us receive our vaccinations. They have opened up their employee health services to help us get inoculated. They will return on February 24, 2021 to give the second dose to the nine residents who received their first dose on February 3, 2021. Once the ninety-day moratorium status post the Monoclonal Antibody (MAB) infusion has been completed, Landmark will once again provide the vaccines to those residents and staff who desire to be vaccinated. We are doing our utmost to prevent a future outbreak here at BallouLife Communities. I urge all of you to accept the vaccine when you have the opportunity to receive it. I truly believe that having the initial dose on board when this outbreak occurred prevented me from getting Covid-19 and allowed me to care for your loved ones.

The residents are being pampered by Tina and Christine; nail care and manicures have been greatly appreciated. This will continue as each resident has their own manicure set up for future use. Tina continues with daily FaceTime calls. Valentine's Day treats and crafts have been an on-going theme for this week. I know I have enjoyed seeing the photographic evidence on Facebook. This weekend, I'm hearing that there will be a "Cupid Cart," which sounds intriguing. We tried to convince Dennis, our Director of Nursing to dress up as cupid, but he declined. I think it would have been rather interesting! We are also back to a round of doorway Bingo; always a favorite of everyone.

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

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