

Facebook Covid-19 Update # 44

March 12, 2021

How quickly the past few days have gone by. BallouLife Communities' weekly testing of staff, residents and families continues to run smoothly. So far everyone remains negative. We have weathered the storm and we are moving forward.

There have been quite a lot of policies related to visitation coming from CDC/CMS as well as the state. We are doing our best to remain in compliance with all of the details. "Facilities should allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents (regardless of vaccination status), except for a few circumstances when visitation should be limited due to a high risk of Covid-19 transmission." CMS recommends that indoor visits should be limited in cases where an unvaccinated resident is in a county where the coronavirus positivity rate exceeds 10% and fewer than 70% of the facility's residents are fully vaccinated. Other exceptions are for residents confirmed to have Covid-19 regardless of their vaccination status and residents in quarantine. While indoor visits are acceptable, outdoor visits pose less risk and are "preferred even when the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated." "Compassionate care visits should be permitted at all times."

We are in the process of surveying an area to set-up as a visitation site for families once the weather permits. The patio off the end of the facility while seemingly perfect is utilized for the residents. We do not want to take this space away from them as they enjoy getting outside and partaking of the sunshine and fresh air. It is also used for a variety of outdoor activities including their summer herb and vegetable garden. We all enjoy the fruits of their labor. Nothing beats fresh herbs and vegetables, some are fine right off the vine, others the kitchen incorporates into the meals. More information will be forthcoming once a site has been selected.

As I had mentioned earlier this week, Tina has indeed got St. Patrick's Day tricks up her sleeve. Don't be surprised when you see a plethora of rainbows and green that day. The residents and staff thoroughly enjoy these special days. Stay tuned for the photographic evidence of shenanigans at BallouLife on Facebook that day.

As always, wash your hands, wear a mask, socially distance and get a vaccine.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN

Infection Preventionist