

Facebook Covid-19 Update #45

March 19, 2021

BallouLife Communities has had a tiny set back in that one of our staff tested positive for Covid-19 last week. We did place calls to all of the families' POA's to let them know of the situation. This person had last worked the previous week, totally compliant with all infection control policies at the facility. Per RIDOH as we were coming out of an outbreak situation most of the residents either have had Covid, had MAB treatments or are fully vaccinated. They felt that careful monitoring was all that was required at this time. We have had no noticeable signs or symptoms of Covid-19. Other than that one staff person the balance of the staff, residents and families have tested negative. We have done the swabs for this week and they have been picked up by the lab. We should have the results over the weekend. Going forward, we will be doing POC testing rather than PCR testing for families, if you would prefer PCR testing you can sign up in the community and have it done. The rapid test takes 15 minutes to process, same procedure as PCR test.

We have continued with visitation as this is only one isolated case. Speaking of visitation we did just yesterday receive updated information from RIDOH. "Visitation should be allowed for periods of at least 45 minutes and must be offered at least six days per week. Two visitors maximum are allowed per resident. At the facility's discretion, visits may be scheduled." We prefer the visits to be scheduled as this way we can ensure that your loved one is ready and available at the designated time. Also, as we are such a small facility our visiting space is very limited. The exception to two visitors is a room visit and then only one visitor per resident is allowed. We do not have to oversee the visit any longer unless you prefer to have Kyla or Jen sit in to facilitate the conversation with your family member. We are still working on a spot for outdoor visitation, as more information becomes available you will be updated. We escaped the snow that was forecast and the first day of Spring is tomorrow, better days are coming.

St. Patrick's Day was a huge success, the staff thoroughly got into the spirit, so much green and only two rainbows, myself and Tiffany who shone very brightly and won the resident prize for best costume. The residents enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day cart in the afternoon with Bailey's Irish Cream Shamrock Shakes and Pot of Gold Rainbow Cupcakes by Tiffany. Everyone was Irish for the day. The residents so enjoy interacting with the staff on these special days. St. Patrick's Day has passed by in the blink of an eye, the shamrocks have come down and the Easter decorations are up. Tina is hard at work planning all of the activities for this very special day. While we may not have our annual Easter Egg Hunt for the general public, I'm pretty sure there will be some sort of scaled down hunt for the residents and staff, hopefully with a Cadbury egg or two thrown in the mix. Tiffany and her staff will provide a special meal as they always do.

The ancillary services are starting to book, we had the podiatrist in today. Peggy is busy setting up all of these appointments. We are doing our best to get back to normal.

As always, wash your hands, wear a mask, socially distance, keep your social network small, and get a vaccine when you are able.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN, Infection Preventionist