

Facebook Covid-19 Update #48

April 09, 2021

BallouLife Communities remains Covid-19 free once again for both residents and staff. Prayers are answered! Our swabs have been picked up by the lab today, results will be known over the weekend or by Monday morning at the latest.

We had two residents vaccinated this week, we are working with RIDOH who in turn contracted with Alert Ambulance and Med Tech Ambulance to provide vaccines to nursing homes. It has been a very easy seamless process. We at this time have eight fully vaccinated residents and two waiting out their two weeks before they are officially considered fully vaccinated. Our residents that received MAB treatments will be vaccinated at the end of this month.

Our staff are little by little getting vaccinated at the outside clinics. Similar to the residents, we have several staff that had MAB treatments and need to wait until the end of the month. Once all residents that want to be vaccinated are vaccinated, we will be at a 92 percent vaccination rate. Staff at this time have a 58 percent vaccination rate. While this may seem low, initially I started with less than a 25 percent rate and have urged, prodded and begged my way to the current level. I will keep trying. There is an initiative "Drive for 75" so my ultimate goal is at least the 75 percent but I do hope to push past it. The herd immunity is said to be at around 75 percent so that is our yardstick so to speak.

Unfortunately the current outbreak is in the younger population as us old folks and I consider myself in this group have received our vaccinations. Nursing homes have seen a 96 percent drop in cases since vaccination started!

Speaking of vaccinations, Woonsocket has had an uptick in community cases and has been added to the "hot spots" for Rhode Island. Therefore, anyone that lives or works in Woonsocket is eligible to receive a vaccination. You still need an appointment, check out covid.ri.gov/vaccination. The old Sears building in Woonsocket's Walnut Hill Plaza is both a mass vaccination and test site. You can still register at CVS or Walgreen's too. Please do this not only for yourselves but for your loved ones.

Visitation continues to go well. Saturday visits are on the rise. The weather is improving and outdoor visits are starting to take place.

Activities is becoming extremely busy. Easter has come and gone. Spring is in the air and at Ballou. Decorations have been crafted and placed throughout the building. A Beach Boy themed exercise class took place this week too! Yesterday live entertainment returned with Polka Paul providing a well-received afternoon of music for all to enjoy. Smiles were seen on all despite masks, can't hide those happy eyes. Today several activities took place as well as an outdoor photography session. Tina keeps these residents busy. We are coming up on nursing home week with a Hawaiian theme. Can't wait for this!

As always, wash your hands, wear a mask, socially distance, ensure your social circle is safe and please get vaccinated.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN, Infection Preventionist