

Facebook Covid-19 Update #49

April 16, 2021

BallouLife Communities has for another week remained Covid-19 free for both residents and staff. We have resumed swabbing of all residents effective this week as their ninety day moratorium is over status post their Covid-19 diagnosis. This goes for the staff as well although most can't quite believe it has been three months since our outbreak. RIDOH is coming up with new guidance related to testing for fully vaccinated individuals. This has not been released yet but I'm hoping for an extended time-frame rather than weekly.

Vaccinations have taken over the headlines as the J&J vaccine has caused quite the stir. I have been assured by RIDOH that we will go ahead with either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines for our residents and staff. Both of these vaccines have not had any of the clotting issues that the J&J vaccine has shown. Speaking of which, I am in the process of setting up the vaccines for the balance of the residents and quite a few of the staff. At this time we are scheduled for this coming Friday, April 23, 2021. Once both vaccines have been received by the residents we will be at ninety six percent uptake. When the staff receive both vaccines we will be seventy four percent, ever so close to the seventy five percent that is considered for herd immunity. Hopefully, more staff will relent and obtain the vaccine, I will keep trying.

Visitation continues to go well. We have had some outdoor visits as the weather has given us a taste here and there of warm weather although today I'm not sure what was happening. The robin outside my window did not find the snowstorm entertaining, he was packing his bag for warmer climes. I didn't so much mind the rain but the snow, come on, really! I think Mother Nature may have gone out for a few drinks last night.

Activities has been busy all week asking residents questions, wait until you see the questions and answers. They had us all in stitches, we have quite a cast of characters on our hands. Tina is getting ready for nursing home week, it will be a Hawaiian themed week. I can't wait, just wish I was really there with a Mai Tai in hand. We are slowly creeping toward a return to our lives prior to Covid. It will be nice to put this in our rearview mirror.

As always, wash your hands, wear a mask, socially distance, keep your social circle small and safe, and get a vaccine.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN, Infection Preventionist