

Facebook Covid-19 update #51

April 30, 2021

BallouLife Communities continues to remain Covid-19 free. We have been blessed with no further outbreaks since January 2021. We have had a sporadic staff case but none since February 12, 2021. This seems to be the case throughout Rhode Island in the nursing homes, a case here and there but no serious outbreaks. The Covid vaccine has been very effective.

Speaking of which, the staff and residents that received their first Moderna Vaccine on April 23, 2021 are scheduled for their second vaccine on May 24, 2021. As a few residents had some minor side effects and the second dose generally causes more pronounced side effects, the thought process was to move the vaccine from a Friday to a Monday when more staff are available to monitor. I don't anticipate any serious issues but want to err on the side of caution. As of June 7, 2021 they will be considered fully vaccinated.

New guidance has been put forth from RIDOH related to Covid-19 testing for staff. Routine testing of personnel is based on the extent of the virus in the community and the vaccination status of the personnel.

Positivity rate below five percent:	Vaccinated personnel monthly
	Unvaccinated personnel every fourteen days
Positivity rate above five to ten percent:	Vaccinated personnel weekly
	Unvaccinated personnel weekly
Positivity rare above ten percent:	Vaccinated personnel twice weekly
	Unvaccinated personnel twice weekly

As for residents, fully vaccinated residents do not need to be tested and unvaccinated residents are to be tested every fourteen days.

Facilities with identified/suspected Covid-19 cases must conduct additional testing accordance with RIDOH guidance.

Based on this information and checking the CDC Covid data tracker we are at a positivity rate of 1.9 this week. There will be a few less noses to swab this week.

Visitation continues to go well. There have been no issues. Can't wait for the warmer weather as the more outside visits can occur. The CDC has updated masking requirements for outdoors in general, if fully vaccinated no mask is required, however, both parties must be fully vaccinated. Masking is still required at all times indoors in nursing homes.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9, 2021. Tina, Jen, and Kyla will be facilitating visits that day for families so you can visit with your mom. They have generously given up time with their families so that you can visit with yours. As usual, Tiffany and company will provide a special meal that day as well. The hairdresser is back and will be working both Saturday and Sunday this weekend to ensure everyone's hair is done.

Tina continues to be hard at work for nursing home week. She continues her daily activities with an undercurrent of urgency for the upcoming event. While there have not been many pictures posted, rest assured your loved ones have been kept very busy.

As always, wash your hands, wear a mask (as required), continue to keep your social circle small, and socially distance.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN

Infection Preventionist