

Covid-19 Facebook Update #53

May 14, 2021

Another week has gone by and fortunately all swab results from last week came back negative. There was no testing done this week per new guidelines from RIDOH. We continue to remain lower than 2% positivity rate for RI. Residents and staff are scheduled for their second dose of Moderna on May 24th. On June 7th, they will then be considered fully vaccinated. Until then, we will only be 31-percent fully vaccinated for the resident population.

New visitation guidelines are as follows: All residents may leave the facility and return without the need for quarantine provided there is no close contact. Quarantining may be needed if there will be close contact, and will be at the discretion of the facility.

Residents who choose to leave the facility as well as their visitors/family members will be educated about the potential risks of public settings, particularly if they have not been fully vaccinated, and reminded to avoid crowds and poorly ventilated areas.

Residents/family members/visitors will be encouraged and assisted with adherence to all recommended infection prevention and control measures, including masking, physical distancing, and hand hygiene. All visitors, vendors and staff must wear a surgical mask at all times, and may choose not to wear a mask outside only if all are fully vaccinated.

If residents are visiting family or friends in their homes, they will be encouraged to maintain physical distancing, and well-fitted masks when either the resident or any of their visitors/family members are not fully vaccinated. With regards to these new guidelines, we will continue to ask for your attentiveness regarding social distancing and masking with non- vaccinated individuals, especially since our resident population will not be fully vaccinated until June 7th.

Visitation will continue indoors and outdoors, six days per week by appointment, and will be in our designated visitation areas. If the resident is not able to come to the visitation area, room visits are allowed (one visitor per room).

Mother's Day was a success and visitation visits were increased for Mother's Day. This week, we celebrated Nursing Home Week with delicious cuisine and paradise partying. Captain Dan Meleleu and daughter Rachael Malley shared stories about his 27-year career with United Airlines and they did a Meet and Greet and talked about the Hawaiian Islands. Steve Burke played his saxophone and the Martone Brothers performed a Hawaiian Luau. We gave out prizes to staff and residents, and staff were garbed in their BallouCrew "Party in Paradise" t shirts. The residents were able to go shopping in our Island Gift shop.

We are happy to announce that Julie, our hairdresser is back in Ballou and once again, our residents love their beautiful hairstyles. As always wear a mask, wash your hands, socially distance, and keep your social circle safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry B. Zeltzer, PhD

Executive Director