

Facebook Covid-19 Update #61

July 09, 2021

BallouLife Communities continues to remain Covid-19 free. All test results from last week were negative. We are on an off week this week, no swabs! Next week will be for the unvaccinated staff and residents, fortunately this list gets shorter over time. I'm wearing them down. Our fully vaccinated staff is 78.5 percent and our residents are at 96 percent as of today. The State of Emergency related to Covid-19 has been extended to August 6, 2021 per Governor McKee yesterday.

Now for some lovely statistics. The state vaccination rate is 65 percent, fully vaccinated is 59.8 percent and partially vaccinated is 65.8 percent, total doses given 1,291,557. These numbers have barely moved from the prior week which is the case nationwide; we have become complacent. Please, if you are not vaccinated, get one, it's free and easily accessed. We rank 8 out of 53 states and territories in the United States. Massachusetts is at 71 percent, Connecticut at 68 percent, Vermont at 74 percent, Maine at 67 percent, and New Hampshire at 63 percent. The county breakdown is as follows: Providence (which is where we are located) is 0.3 percent positivity rate with 58 percent vaccinated, Kent is 0.6 percent positivity with 68 percent vaccinated, Washington is 0.6 percent positivity with 69 percent vaccinated, Newport is 0.3 percent positivity with 69 percent vaccinated and Bristol is 0.3 percent positivity with 69 percent vaccinated. As you can see we need to catch up to the rest of the state for vaccinations.

As I stated last week, the Delta Variant is the biggest concern for us at this time. It has now become the dominant variant at 51.7 percent of the cases reported up from 20 percent last week. It is highly contagious and virulent. It is the unvaccinated that are the ones getting ill from this and the younger age groups. All of the vaccines are effective against this variant. The outbreaks in the United States are occurring in the states with the lowest vaccination rates, however, with mask mandates being lifted and state of emergencies being lifted we are becoming laissez-faire.

Travel has mushroomed and so unfortunately will Covid-19. July 4th saw record numbers and I'm hoping we will not have the two week bump that has followed every major holiday in the past. This is so preventable. I know I sound like I'm on a soap box but please get a vaccination.

Our visitation continues as is, there are no changes. Please be considerate, you must wear a mask while in the nursing home, vaccinated or not. We need to protect everyone in the facility. This is required by the state. No mask, no entry!

As always, wear a mask, wash your hands, socially distance and get a vaccine.

Respectfully submitted,

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Infection Preventionist