

Facebook Covid-19 Update #62

July 16, 2021

BallouLife Communities continues to remain Covid-19 free. We swabbed this week the unvaccinated staff and residents. No one has shown any respiratory signs or symptoms with the exception of one case of pneumonia and this person tested negative for Covid-19. We continue to remain vigilant especially with the uptick in Covid-19 cases driven by the Delta Variant.

The Delta Variant is now the dominant strain in the United States, currently at 57 percent of all cases. The infection rate has doubled since June 22, 2021. Infection is up in forty eight states. Covid-19 deaths are 99.5 percent related to unvaccinated individuals. This has increased 47 percent in just one week. The vaccination rate has declined 80 percent since April and the statistics show it is the younger population that is getting ill and they are getting sicker. The Delta Variant is highly transmissible and extremely virulent. If you look at the statistics for the United States the hospitals are becoming overwhelmed in states that have a low vaccination rate. Masking mandates are being put back in place.

Even somewhat locally MLB cancelled the Red Sox/Yankee game yesterday as three of the Yankee players had tested positive. The balance of test results were still pending. These players were vaccinated and asymptomatic. The vaccine does not 100 percent guarantee that you will not get Covid-19 but it does lessen its impact. Internationally the Olympics in Tokyo are also feeling an impact from Covid with athletes now having to drop out as they are testing positive. The pandemic has not ended.

Rhode Island nursing homes as of July 14, 2021 have shown no new cases but as visitation has liberalized the onset of respiratory illnesses are increasing. We are letting down our guard. Masks are being forgotten or pulled down. Please understand while you are in a nursing home you must mask vaccinated or not. Given that the Delta Variant is out there I would mask in public.

Rhode Island statistics for this week: Percent positive 0.55 percent up from 0.29 percent, hospital admissions 19 up from 18, new cases 15 up from 11. Partially vaccinated 702,585 or 66.3 percent, fully vaccinated 646,660 or 60.4 percent, total doses given 1,302,938. The County breakdown is as follows: Providence County is 0.5 percent positivity with 59 percent vaccinated, Kent County is 1.0 percent positivity with 68 percent vaccinated, Washington County 0.5 percent positivity with 69 percent vaccinated, Newport County 0.8 percent with 69 percent vaccinated and Bristol County is 0.7 percent with 70 percent vaccinated. All of the percent positivity rates have increased over the past week, the percent vaccinated has only increased in Providence County by one percent as did Bristol County. The other counties

remain stagnated. We remain in a moderate transmission rate overall for the State of Rhode Island at this time.

I know that all these statistics can be mind boggling but basically the rates are increasing and we are entering the fourth wave of Covid-19. With school just around the corner now is the time to get vaccinated. The fortunate statistic is that we are seventh in ranking out of 53 states and territories but we have much room for improvement. Providence County of which Woonsocket is part of is the lowest ranking county in the state. Please be a part of the solution.

I'll hop off the soap box sort of. As always, wash your hands, wear a mask, socially distance and get a vaccination.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN

Infection Preventionist