

Facebook Covid-19 Update #64

July 30, 2021

BallouLife continues to remain Covid-19 free. There were no swabs from last week as it was our off week. This week all staff were swabbed as were unvaccinated residents. The swabs have been picked up and are out for processing. All results should be known within a day or two. Rhode Island has now gone from moderate Covid-19 status to substantial as our transmission rate is 55 per 100,000, last week we were 29 per 100,000, not quite double but close. BallouLife remains 96 percent vaccinated for residents and 79 percent for staff.

The news for statistics continues to show that the Delta Variant is wreaking havoc. Not to say that the vaccinated folks aren't getting breakthrough cases because they are but they are milder and mostly do not require hospitalization. But a quote from a CNN article today in interviewing a doctor in the thick of it, "40 percent of the unvaccinated account for 97 percent of all Covid cases and 99.2 percent of deaths".

While Rhode Island still remains in the top ten for lowest transmission and percent positive our numbers each week continue to rise. This week we are 2.28 percent positivity, last week 1.41 percent. The rest of the geographic area is as follows: Vermont 1.55 percent, last week 1.24 percent; Massachusetts 1.8 percent, last week 1.4 percent; New York 2.17 percent, last week 1.5 percent; Maine 2.27 percent, last week 2.48 percent; New Hampshire 2.62 percent, last week 1.42 percent; and lastly Connecticut 2.95 percent, last week 2.24 percent. With the exception of Maine all rates have increased.

Our county positivity rates also have followed suit, as a reminder Woonsocket is part of Providence County. Providence County 1.8 percent up from 1.0 percent; Kent County 2.5 percent up from 1.2 percent; Washington County 1.5 percent up from 0.7 percent, Newport County 2.1 percent slightly up from 2.0 percent and lastly Bristol County 2.0 percent up from 1.5 percent. The vaccination rate for Rhode Island are as follows: partially vaccinated 714,697 or 67.4 percent, fully vaccinated 656,706 or 61.3 percent and total doses given 1,324,500. The numbers show slight gains.

CDC has updated its recommendations for mask wearing for fully vaccinated people as of July 27, 2021. They are recommending mask wearing in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission, Rhode Island has hit the substantial threshold as previously noted, therefore, please wear a mask while out and about. Mask wearing in the facility is mandatory!

From the CDC Covid Data Tracker: The current 7-day moving average of daily new cases increased 64.1 percent compared with the previous 7-day moving average. The current 7-day moving average is 73.8 percent lower than the peak observed on January 10, 2021 and is 480.1 percent higher than the lowest value observed on June 19, 2021. Vaccination rate for

the United States is 57.2 percent partially vaccinated and 49.4 percent fully vaccinated, 0.8 percent and 0.6 percent increase respectively. Hospitalizations 7-day average for July 21-July 27 was 5,474 up 46.4 percent from 3,742. Covid deaths 7-day average has increased 33.3 percent compare with the previous 7-day average.

My mind goes numb with all of these statistics, bottom line, Covid-19 is not going away any time soon and will continue to mutate to cause more infections. The best way to prevent this is to receive a vaccine. It may not 100 percent protect you but your chance of getting extremely ill and requiring hospitalization are diminished.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Infection Preventionist