

Facebook Covid-19 Update #66

August 13, 2021

BallouLife Communities remains Covid-19 free as of this week. We have swabbed the unvaccinated residents and staff this week. Those swabs have been picked up by the lab and are enroute to be processed. We will now be swabbing the unvaccinated staff twice a week and the unvaccinated residents will remain every two weeks. All vaccinated staff will be swabbed monthly, vaccinated residents still are not being swabbed at this time.

The Rhode Island Department of Health along with the Governor held a press conference this past Tuesday. There is an emergency regulation for all health care workers which not only includes all of our licensed professionals, but also anyone coming into the facility to provide services. Basically other than families, a covid vaccination will be required. This will need to be done by the end of September. The first vaccine must be received by September 1, 2021. As of October 1, 2021 if you are not vaccinated you cannot work at the facility. The only exceptions are medical. This is for all facilities in Rhode Island and follows suit of similar regulations in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Just in, the FDA has amended the EUA for both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to allow for the use of an additional dose in certain immunocompromised individuals. This would include solid organ transplant recipients or those who are diagnosed with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immunocompromise. Further clinical information will be made available for the immunocompromised after a meeting that is being held today.

As a reminder, a mask is required when in the facility, even while visiting in the room, please abide by this rule. Again we are trying to protect your family, please help to protect them too.

Rhode Island remains in a high transmission status with 152.3 cases per 100,000 persons in the last 7 days, last week this number was 105 and the prior week 55 cases. As you can see this number continues to climb. Vaccinations slowly claw their way up; 729,687 partially vaccinated or 69.4 percent, fully vaccinated 667,009 or 62.6 percent with 1,349,051 doses administered. New hospitalizations are 68 this week, last week 36, total hospitalized are 89. BallouLife Communities vaccination percentages are as follows: 96 percent for residents and 81 percent for staff in the building this week.

Rhode Island still remains in the top nine states with positivity rates below 5 percent, ours is currently 3.48 percent, last week, 3.47 percent so basically the same week over week. We have actually moved up to number five on the list from seventh. The following are our neighboring states: Maine 2.35 percent, previous week 3.88 percent; Massachusetts 2.73 percent previous week 2.63 percent, Vermont 2.91 percent, previous week 2.59 percent; New York 3.05 percent, previous week 2.91 percent; Connecticut 4.19 percent, previous week 3.27

percent and unfortunately New Hampshire crossed over the line at 5.18 percent, previous week 4.78 percent.

The County numbers that make up the state numbers are as follows: Providence County 3.2 percent positive, last week 3.2, therefore flat; Kent County 3.3 percent, last week 3.1 percent; Washington County 3.2 percent, last week 3.0 percent, Newport County 3.9 percent, last week 4.2 percent' and lastly Bristol County 2.2 percent, last week 2.1 percent.

The CDC Covid Data Tracker shows Covid-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to rise especially in areas with lower vaccination coverage. Pediatric cases have also continued to rise. The current 7-day moving average of reported cases is 114,190 or 18.4 percent higher than last week (96,454). Testing's 7-day average for positive tests is now 9.7 percent.

Vaccinations have shown a very slight decrease of 0.03 percent after the previous weeks gain. New hospitalizations unfortunately continue to rise. The current 7-day average is 10,072, this is a 29.6 percent increase from last week's average of 7,771. They are currently highest in Florida, Louisiana and Oregon. Along with the unfortunate statistic of new hospitalizations is the increase in deaths. The current 7-day average is 492, a 21 percent increase from last week's average of 407.

The numbers continue to bear witness to the toll Covid-19 is taking on in the United States. We can do our part by being smart and safe.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN

Infection Preventionist