

FaceBook Covid-19 Update #70

September 10, 2021

BallouLife Communities has remained Covid free for two testing cycles, the third testing cycle was this past Thursday, approximately half the tests have resulted and so far all are negative. We will have another round of testing on Tuesday for all staff and all residents, if they come back negative then we will go back to routine testing. This encompasses twice weekly testing for unvaccinated and weekly testing for the balance of the staff. The residents will not be swabbed unless a positive test results. As of this week 88 percent of the staff that worked in the building are vaccinated.

Normally at this juncture I would go into all of the statistics but this week has been extremely hectic with preparing all of the discharges to other facilities. We started with twenty four residents are now at fifteen with another three slated for Monday and Tuesday. It has been extremely difficult for the staff. We have been in tears with each resident leaving. We have accompanied each resident to their new facility and have done our best to ensure their needs will be taken care of. To say that our hearts are breaking is to minimize how we are feeling. This is beyond devastating.

Now for a few statistics related to Rhode Island. Our percent positivity rate is 2.5 percent, last week this was 3.3 so that is the good news. Unfortunately new hospitalizations have increased from 120 last week to 142. However, ICU is 16 versus 18 and vented are 11 versus 13. So a mixed bag, all in all we are doing well. Our vaccination rate is 73.3 percent partially vaccinated and 65.8 percent fully vaccinated, both slightly higher than last week. The surrounding states are as follows: Massachusetts 2.21 percent down from 2.5 percent; Vermont 2.7 percent, up from 2.25 percent; Connecticut 3.24 percent down from 4.37 percent; New York 3.34 percent up from 3.31 percent; New Hampshire 6.22 percent, up from 6.08 percent; and lastly Maine 7.68 percent down from 8.72.

The county rates are as follows: Providence County 2.5 percent positive with 65 percent vaccinated; Kent County 2.7 percent positive with 72 percent vaccinated; Washington County 2.6 percent positive with 73 percent vaccinated; Newport County 2.6 percent positive with 74 percent; and finally Bristol County 1.6 percent positive with 73 percent vaccinated. Providence County has a lot of catching up to do in the vaccination department.

Nationally the CDC Covid Data tracker is showing improvement in all areas. The 7-day moving average of daily new cases has decreased 12.7 percent. The percentage of Covid-19 PCR tests that are positive are down 5.5 percent. Vaccinations have increased 0.7 percent. New hospitalizations are down 4.1 percent and deaths have declined 11.3 percent. While this appears to be good news, let's hope that it is sustainable.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Certified Infection Preventionist