

Facebook Covid-19 Update #2

May 22, 2020

Ballou Life Communities continually strives to care for your family and ours. We have been in constant contact with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), following all guidelines from them and from CDC/CMS.

We are following the guidelines from both the state and federal level for reopening nursing homes. Nursing homes are not recommended to open until Phase 3, which states:

- There have been no new, nursing home onset Covid-19 cases in the nursing home for 28 days (through phases one and two).
- The nursing home is not experiencing staff shortages
- The nursing home has adequate supplies of PPE and essential cleaning and disinfection supplies to care for residents
- The nursing home has adequate access to testing for Covid-19
- Referral hospital(s) have bed capacity on wards and intensive care units

Nursing homes serve the most vulnerable population and the inherent risks of congregate living requires aggressive efforts to limit Covid-19 exposure and to prevent the spread within the facility.

We are in the process of obtaining baseline testing of the entire facility, both staff and residents. This will occur this week. The swabs are being delivered to the facility on Thursday, May 21st and swabbing will commence on Tuesday, May 26th; results should be known within 48 hours once the lab picks up the swabs.

Testing is a mainstay of ensuring the safety of your family and our staff. The perfect world of testing would be weekly, but unfortunately, the supply of swabs does not meet that standard yet. We will continue to push for testing. The goals of testing are as follows:

Resident Testing: all residents receive a baseline test. Residents are subsequently re-tested upon the identification of a single individual with symptoms consistent with Covid-19 or a staff member who test positive for Covid-19. Residents will be re-tested until all residents test negative

Staff testing: All staff receive a baseline test for Covid-19. Staff are subsequently tested on a weekly basis thereafter. State or local officials may adjust the frequency of testing based on community data.

Screening protocols remain in place for all residents, staff and all others entering the facility. Baseline testing of all residents and staff is required prior to a nursing home advancing through phases or relaxing any restrictions. Nursing homes should spend a minimum of 14 days in a given phase prior to advancing to the next phase. If a nursing home experiences a new onset of Covid-19 at any point in time, that nursing homes returns to the highest level of mitigation and must start over.

Ballou at this point in time remains Covid-19 free. However, we have two residents that have been out of the facility, both tested negative, one at the hospital and the other prior to going for an essential procedure but per protocol must be self-isolated for 14 days to ensure that no signs or symptoms develop. Currently neither one have shown any signs or symptoms. We

have also swabbed another resident that has shown potential signs of an infection. Those results came in today and are negative; families will be notified, and the community updated. Again, should you need to contact the facility don't hesitate to call, we are at your service.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN, Infection Preventionist