

Facebook Covid-19 Update #6

June 19, 2020

BallouLife Communities continues to remain Covid-19 free, six weeks and counting. I have been in touch with RIDOH to obtain swabs for our routine testing. We will receive these swabs on Monday, June 22, 2020 and commence testing. The two staff that were swabbed last week were both negative. We have swabbed five more staff this week, two of them are new hires, one is returning to work from a leave of absence. The fourth one was screened prior to work on June 17, 2020 complaining of a headache with a low grade temperature. She was not allowed in the building and was sent for testing. This is the reason that screening is so important, and we stop it at the door. She has not been in the building since Sunday, June 14, 2020 and at that time was not symptomatic. The fifth staff member is through contact tracing from RIDOH; she had potential exposure to a Covid-19 positive relative and we swabbed her today. She last worked Sunday, June 14, 2020 and was not symptomatic and is not symptomatic at this time. She is being swabbed as an overabundance of caution. The three that were swabbed here were just sent to the lab today (June 18, 2020), results should be known within the next 48-72 hours. Should any of the staff test positive, families will be notified. All of the residents are healthy and not showing any signs or symptoms of Covid-19.

Many of you are anxious to be able to visit with your loved ones, and we are in the process of writing our visitation plan. This has to be submitted to the RIDOH and approved prior to any visits taking place. This plan will provide all the information you need for these visits to be scheduled in the future. Please note that when the Governor states that nursing homes may open for visitation it is not carte blanche. We, as the nursing home must have everything in place to provide a safe and fruitful visit for both you and your family member. We will be reaching out to the POA when we are ready for visits to take place.

You may have heard about drive-by visits being allowed for Father's Day that was announced at the June 15, 2020 press conference. This was further amended today, June 18, 2020 to be allowed other days, as well. BallouLife Communities at this point in time does not have the appropriate set-up for allowing this to occur. We are sorry for this inconvenience but the safety of the residents and staff must come first.

Our first week of communal dining has been a success. The residents have enjoyed escaping the units and being able to socially enjoy each other's company while eating. The tables have been distanced to accommodate all required regulations. The kitchen staff is happy to be able to serve their Ballou family once again.

Tina has been doing a great job with activities. She has also been able to facilitate getting the residents outdoors pretty much daily, alternating floors, one floor in the morning, the other in the afternoon. Tina has also reconfigured the seating arrangements to allow the maximum number of residents outside with appropriate social distancing. Of course, all of this is weather

dependent, not just based on clemency but on the heat and humidity, as we have to ensure health concerns are not endangered. Our “new normal life” is coming along little by little. Our biggest concern is the health and safety of all.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN, Infection Preventionist