

## Facebook Covid-19 Update #7

June 19, 2020

BallouLife Communities' streak of Covid-19 free weeks has unfortunately ended this past week. As mentioned in last week's update, we had sent a staff member for testing with symptoms of a headache and temperature. She received her test results on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 and was positive. Two of her co-workers had contact with her and although they have initially tested negative, they will need to self-isolate for fourteen (14) days and then be tested again. The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) was notified of the positive test and in addition to the routine staff tests that were done on June 22, 2020, they asked for all of the residents to be swabbed as well.

The residents have all been swabbed and the good news is that they are all negative. The staff tests are slowly trickling in, and at this point, they are negative as well, but not all have resulted. The other staff that were mentioned in last week's update have all tested negative. Based on the positive test, we have gone back to the highest level of vigilance and mitigation in the facility.

We have submitted our reopening plan to the Department of Health this past week, actually just yesterday. However, the criteria of having a positive Covid-19 case and staff out will prevent us from pursuing a reopening in the upcoming weeks, as we must have sufficient staffing available. We are also awaiting furniture and a partition that separates the visitation area. This has been ordered but has not yet arrived. We know that you have been looking forward to this, but we must protect everyone involved and have the proper seating arrangements. Once the dust settles, we will be reaching out to the POA to start setting up in-person visits. For now, FaceTime and phone calls will remain the mainstay of communication. Please continue to send care packages and cards; they brighten your family's days, also please, no food or flowers.

I am sorry for the good news/bad news scenario, but we continue to move forward as best as we can.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ruth A. Daly, RN, Infection Preventionist**