

Facebook Covid-19 Update #13

August 7, 2020

BallouLife Communities has successfully come through another week of testing with all negative results from the July 30, 2020 testing. We have completed the swabbing for this week and the swabs have been picked up by the lab. The community rate continues to rise, and Rhode Island has become the only New England state to be banned from the other bordering states, related to our increasing numbers. This makes the swabbing of staff so much more important, as we are part of the community at large.

Please ensure the safety of yourself, the residents, and our staff by washing your hands, wearing a mask when out, socially distancing from others and refraining from large gatherings, if possible or at least if you do attend, following the aforementioned guidelines. I know that this is considered controversial but we as healthcare providers caring for the most vulnerable population are doing the best that we can to protect your loved ones, and we only ask that you and everyone else does as well. This unfortunately is our new norm and we cannot and will not let our guard down.

The Hurricane/Tropical Storm Isaias that blew through on Tuesday had no impact on BallouLife Communities. We were fully staffed, administration was on-hand, and maintenance staff remained in the building overnight. The lights flickered but power was not lost. We do have a back-up generator for the facility but it was not needed. The generator is tested weekly to ensure efficacy during emergencies. We have a back-up supply of food, water, personal care items, and medication. BallouLife does have a disaster plan in place and we work very closely with the Rhode Island Department of Health and are part of the Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC MAP). This plan is currently being utilized related to Covid-19 pandemic.

Visitation continues to go well. The visits are eagerly anticipated by the residents and by the family members. We have expanded the number of time slots so that you may have as many as two visits per week. Evening visits have been added with two time frames available; this window of time has not been a popular option and this may be scaled back to just once in the evening. We will leave this, as a choice for the next week or two to see if more families start to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN,
Infection Preventionist