

## Facebook Covid-19 Update #18

September 11, 2020

BallouLife Communities continues to remain Covid-19 free. We continue with weekly testing. This week's swabs have been completed and are awaiting pick-up from the lab. The turn-around time has greatly improved. The lab picks up the swabs on Friday and by Monday, I have most of the results with an occasional straggler; but for the most part, all results are known. While the testing is uncomfortable, it is a comforting feeling to know that we are negative and protecting your loved ones here at the facility and our loved ones at home. As an added bonus, it is our ticket to drive into Massachusetts, lucky us!

There is new guidance from the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) in relation to residents going out of the facility for routine doctor appointments or same day procedures. We no longer have to quarantine them for 14 days. RIDOH and the doctors feel that the cleaning procedures, mask wearing, and social distancing that have been put in place are sufficient to safeguard the health of those going out of the facility for care. Effective immediately, this will be put in place. Having stated that, any resident that goes to the emergency room, even if they return the same day, will be put on a 14-day quarantine to monitor for Covid-19. Obviously, if they are admitted and then return to the facility, they will also be placed on 14-day quarantine. I know that this is difficult for those involved, but it is to protect the other residents and the staff.

Rhode Island continues to remain stable for Covid-19. Our positivity rate is below 1%, and hope that this stays the course. The hospitals have capacity and are able to take care of those who require care. Nursing homes are showing a few cases and even though one case is considered an outbreak, there is not widespread Covid-19. We all take this very seriously and vigorously guard your loved ones.

Good news this week, Julie the hairdresser returned! The residents are beyond excited to have their hair done professionally again. They all looked so beautiful after their day at the salon. She is happy to be back and we are glad to have her back in the family fold. Little by little, life is somewhat returning to a kinder gentler existence. Visitation continues to go well; no issues.

As always, wash your hands, wear your mask, and remain six (6) feet apart.  
Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN,  
Infection Preventionist