

Facebook Covid-19 Update #31

December 4, 2020

Thanksgiving has come and gone; unfortunately, this delayed last week's processing of swabs. We all waited with bated breath to see what the results would be; lucky for us another completely negative week. We did have a couple of staff with cold signs and symptoms. Unfortunately, we have to think Covid, and fortunately, we have POC antigen testing available here in the facility, and we were able to test immediately. The results were negative. One resident was feeling a bit under the weather and again the POC antigen test was negative. This resident has since fully recovered, less than twenty four hours, never any respiratory symptoms. Having the accessibility of the POC antigen testing on-site lets the facility immediately take any necessary precautions to protect your loved ones.

Per RIDOH guidance provided to us on December 1, 2020, we will now be testing the residents weekly along with the staff. "As part of our collective efforts to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is recommending that nursing home resident cyclical testing be resumed consistent with the current guidance from RIDOH for nursing home staff testing." The testing has already been done for this week, and all residents were compliant with the swabbing.

There is no good news about the spread and rate of Covid-19 in the community, state or country. Records are being broken daily and not in a good way. Rhode Island is classified as a severe outbreak situation. The hospitals have reached 100 percent capacity and the field hospital in Cranston is now receiving patients.

Vaccination for Covid-19 remains on the horizon. As we receive more information, we will provide links for you to read. Please be informed, that we will be asking for your permission and your loved one's permission to give and receive the vaccine. I'm sure you will receive calls from them asking questions once the vaccine becomes available. As previously noted last week, we will be working with Walgreen's to provide this service.

On an upbeat note, Tina, Kyla and Jen have been Santa's helpers and decorating the facility for Christmas. All the main areas have trees and decorations galore. One by one they have been decorating all of the resident rooms, and each resident will have or already has their own tree. We have the best elves working for us! All this week, as evidenced by the pictures posted to Facebook, shows the Ballou Home is ready for Christmas. The residents have enjoyed partaking in the creation of the decorations. The wreaths, swags, and kissing balls look amazing, and the smiles on our residents' faces were spectacular. Resident and staff raffles are on-going. Staff get to partake in not one, but two dress up days- Ugly Sweater Day and Christmas Pajama Day; just wait for those pictures! Today, they had a hot cocoa, cookie cart. Yummy! The gazebo is all decked out, as is the back patio. I can't say enough about the joy that is spread throughout our home.

As always, wash your hands, wear a mask, socially distance, and keep your family circle small.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth A. Daly, RN,
Infection Preventionist