

Facebook Covid-19 Update #32

December 18, 2020

BallouLife Communities has once again come through the week's testing with both the staff and residents all negative. I can't say enough about how grateful I am that we remain negative and have been since May of this year. We have been working very hard to keep everyone safe, and we are truly blessed. Your family members have been quite pleasant in receiving their weekly swab and in some cases, have swabbed their own noses with my or Connie's supervision. We are very proud of them. No Point of Care Antigen tests were required this week; we are strong New England stock, and not even a snow storm could get in our way.

As you are aware we have pushed out the permission slips for the Covid-19 vaccine. Thank you for your kind and rapid attention to this. Today's conference states that the nursing homes are still on track for the vaccines to be pushed out to us December 28th. I have heard from Walgreen, who is our partner for the vaccination process through Pharmerica. As more information becomes available, we will reach out to you. The vaccination process will consist of three clinics. We will stagger the residents and staff to allow down time for any potential side effects; these are to be expected. It is our immune response to a vaccine, and this occurs for any type of vaccine. The second dose has a higher potential for side effects, as the first dose has provided the initial immune response and now it is geared to fight the virus and hence, the more pronounced effects.

The Essential Caregiver Program for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities was also mentioned in today's televised conference by Governor Raimondo. We were aware that this was a possibility but had been put on pause for the "Pause." We will look at this and discuss as a team over the next week or so. We are focused on getting the vaccine on track as well as ensuring that the holidays are properly celebrated by your loved ones here at the facility. This is too important to gloss over and requires our full attention.

Once again the staff got to "play at work." Monday was Ugly Sweater Day and boy did we have some pretty ugly sweaters. Today was Christmas Pajama day and we all enjoyed showing off our PJ's. This is so much fun and so good for not only the staff, but also the residents, as they truly enjoy laughing at our antics. The end of the day was Grinch Green Milk and Green Cookies, hopefully, not too many cookies or our faces and tummies may be green too! Look for all of our fun on Facebook.

As always, wash your hands, wear a mask, socially distance, and keep your circle small, and together we will get through this.

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