



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, Aug 3, 2020

Please Note: This Update is posted on the Passaic County website, the Passaic County Facebook page, distributed through the Constant Contact email group for families who have elected to provide their email address and is distributed to all staff. Our Social Workers and Therapeutic Recreation staff distribute the Update to residents who wish to receive it.

Last week, the NJ Department of Health, Communicable Disease Service issued new guidance for the discontinuation of transmission-based precautions for persons diagnosed with COVID-19. The guidance included that a test-based strategy is generally not recommended except if a concern exists for the patient being infectious for more than 20 days. We currently have seven residents who are COVID+ on the 3-400 C section of the unit who have been asymptomatic and who were waiting for a second negative test result. Based on the revised guidance, our Medical Director has determined that the seven residents no longer need transmission-based precautions and may return to non-COVID+ units. We will be reviewing available beds for the seven residents and discussing options with the residents and their families. Because there continues to be community spread of the virus we will keep the 3-400 C section of the unit vacant until further notice to be prepared in the event one of our residents tests positive and needs to be on transmission based precautions in a COVID+ cohort.

We were fortunate this past weekend that it did not rain as predicted and we did not need to cancel visitation. We will be monitoring the weather for this week since rain is predicted from the remnants of the tropical storm.

Our weekly testing of residents and staff continues. Residents were tested on July 20 through July 23 and July 27 through July 30. Many results are still pending. 365 staff were tested on July 29 and 30. Two staff from support departments tested positive. Neither staff had direct resident contact. As per the CDC testing guidelines for nursing homes when there is an outbreak which is defined as a single new case of COVID in a healthcare professional or a resident, testing should be done and repeat viral testing is to be done of all previously negative residents every 3 to 7 days. The testing is to continue until the testing identifies no new cases of COVID among residents or healthcare professionals for a period of at least 14 days since the most recent positive result.

The following is the cumulative update for our current census of 285 residents and staff:

- Since March 25, we have had one hundred fourteen residents test positive for COVID-19. The cumulative total includes seventy-six residents who have ever tested positive and have twice consecutively tested negative, thirty residents who have ever tested positive and passed away and one resident who passed away who was presumed

positive. Seven residents are currently positive who were awaiting a second negative test result.

- One hundred twenty-one staff have tested positive. One hundred twelve staff have returned to work.

One of our long-term residents who was a World War II Veteran in the Army passed away since the last Update, days before his 98th birthday. He was admitted in 2018. Through the years we had the opportunity to meet his daughter and son. We offer our condolences to his family, friends, and co-residents and to our staff who have taken care of our resident.

It is anticipated that the precautions for the residents who are on transmission based precautions on 3-200 and Plaza West will be discontinued on August 5 (3-200) and August 6 (Plaza West).

Current regulations include virtual physician visits whenever possible and off-site medical visits when virtual visits cannot be conducted. Consultant physicians who have been approved for on-site visits include Pulmonology, Psychiatry, Dentistry and Podiatry. Dental services for residents who require urgent care resumed on July 30. Podiatry services resumed on July 31.

Passaic County continues to offer free COVID-19 testing at home for Passaic County residents and is also offering testing at mobile sites. Please see the Passaic County website for the details.

We wish all who are observing Eid al-Adha a joyous holiday.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff and the sacrifices they have made and the continued support of our residents, families, colleagues throughout Passaic County, the community and those who assist in the testing of residents and staff during these challenging and emotional times. ***Preakness Strong Heroes Do Work Here!***

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA
Executive Director