



# Preakness Healthcare Center

## A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, December 23, 2020

*Please Note:* This Update is posted on the Passaic County website, 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.

Since the last Update, we have continued outbreak testing for residents. On December 22, 2020, we received positive COVID test results for two residents on our Pathway, Special Care Behavior Unit. One of the residents previously tested positive in April, 2020. Our residents were transferred to the 3-400 C, COVID positive unit. As of this writing, 92 results are pending for tests that have been completed through today.

During our testing of 421 staff today, we used antigen testing to ensure results were readily available. Three staff tested positive: one Security guard, one C NA who worked on resident unit 1-400 and one C NA who worked on resident unit 2-400. Given our concerns for the community spread of COVID during the holidays, all staff who are scheduled to work on December 28, will be tested with antigen testing. This will be in addition to the regularly scheduled weekly testing of all staff on Wednesday, December 30, 2020.

Our quarantine status is as follows: *Please note:* Essential caregiver visitation is suspended on all units due to the three resident, facility-onset positive COVID cases:

- 1-300 (quarantine ends on December 25); outdoor visitation may resume on December 26, 2020
- 1-400
- Pathway
- 2-400 including the vent unit

Sorrowfully, during this holiday season, two of our long-term residents have passed away:

- Our resident who lived on Pathway since she came to live with us in 2013 was 71 years old. Staff appreciate the kind words of her sister, that the best years of her sister's life were spent with the Pathway staff.
- Our resident who lived on 3-400 was 70 years old and also came to live with us in 2013.

We offer our condolences to our residents' families, their friends and co-residents and to our staff who have taken care of our residents for many years.

Cristina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist is coordinating our plans for COVID-19 vaccination of residents, staff and Essential Caregivers who consent to the administration of the vaccine. We have received **tentative** vaccination clinic dates for the first administration of the vaccines on January 3, January 8 and January 9, 2021. Vaccine information is available for your review at [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/EUA\\_Pfizer\\_FactSheet\\_for\\_Recipients.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/EUA_Pfizer_FactSheet_for_Recipients.pdf). Although there isn't a cost to those who receive the vaccine, we are required to provide copies of insurance cards/prescription cards for the registration. If you do not have insurance, you will still be able to receive the vaccine.

If you are an Essential Caregiver and wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at Preakness, please inform Cristina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist at 973-585-2181 or by email at [THucalla@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:THucalla@passaiccountynj.org).

Congratulations to Ann Margaret Roman, RN, BSN on her promotion to Assistant Nursing Supervisor on the evening shift!

If you have an urgent call or complaint, please call Preakness Healthcare Center Security staff at 973-317-7023 and your call will be directed to the appropriate person. In addition, Dr. Geoffrey Mugalu, Assistant Executive Director may be reached at 973-585-2113 to address any concerns.

Please call 973-585-2145 to speak with Lisandro Perez, Jr to schedule an outdoor visit, weather-permitting. At this point in time, outdoor visitation may occur for residents on units 1-200, 2-200, 3-200, 2-300 and 3-400, and 1-300 (effective December 26, 2020). Please be reminded that NJ has restrictions in place for those who travel from other states. Visitors from these states may not visit unless the person has completed the required quarantine period. You may also request an Essential Caregiver application from Mr. Perez for this type of future visit.

Virtual visits may be arranged by calling Alina Zalenski, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at 973-585-2124 or Lee Livingston, Senior Recreation Therapist at 973-585-2163. If there is a request for hair salon services, you may direct the request to Ms. Zalenski or Ms. Livingston.

Passaic County continues to offer free COVID-19 testing at home and at mobile sites for Passaic County residents. Please see the Passaic County website ([passaiccountynj.org](http://passaiccountynj.org)) for the details.

Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa to our residents, their families and our staff who are celebrating the holidays.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff and the sacrifices they make and the continued support we receive during these challenging and emotional times. ***Preakness Strong Heroes Continue to Work Here!***

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA  
Executive Director