



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, June 18, 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.

Today begins the national celebration of Certified Nursing Assistants Week. As shared in the last Update the theme this year is CARE: Compassionate, Attentive, Reliable, Exceptional. Among our staff, it is our CNAs who are able to spend the most time with our residents assisting them in all aspects of their lives.

We have now reached three months since we began our efforts to meet the challenges of the Coronavirus and the evolving Pandemic. While we are encouraged that we have not had new resident cases of COVID-19 for one month and many residents are retesting as negative, the past few days have been difficult with the passing of three of our residents including two who were affected by COVID-19.

- The wife of one of our married resident couples who have lived with us since 2017 and recently celebrated 68 years of marriage passed away. Her husband's love and devotion for his wife were evident --- rarely did he leave her side and always did he lovingly watch over her.
- One of our residents from our long-term mental health unit passed away in the hospital. She has lived with us since 2008. She had an incredible memory for staff's names and birthdates as she greeted staff.
- One of our residents who passed away was the son of our resident who we cared for from 1997 through 2006 in Building Two. We first met him when he came to visit his mother and then he came to live with us in 2009. His father joined him as a resident in 2017 until he passed away in 2018, and his brother has been our resident since 2018. Many residents and families know him from his quick wit and helpfulness in Bingo and in all activities as he scooted around in his motorized wheelchair. Besides his family who he leaves behind, he leaves behind his co-resident and special friend.

There are many rewards to careers in nursing facilities. And, there is much sorrow when we experience the passing of our residents whose lives we share. We offer our condolences to our residents' families, friends, and co-residents and to our staff who have taken care of our residents for many years.

We are continuing the weekly retesting of residents and staff. We have not had a resident with a new positive test result since May 19. We have had two staff test positive since we began weekly testing of all staff. There are retest results for residents and staff from last week pending and this week's results are pending.

The following is the cumulative update for our current census of 295 residents and staff:

- Since March 25, we have had one hundred nine residents test positive for COVID-19. The cumulative total includes twenty-one residents who were positive and have twice tested negative, twenty-seven residents who were positive and have retested once as negative and are pending second test results; twenty-six residents who tested positive and passed away and one resident who passed away who was presumed positive. Three residents are hospitalized.
- One hundred two staff have tested positive. Seventy-six staff have returned to work.

We must celebrate Father's Day without our usual family and resident gathering because the NJ Department of Health has not yet lifted visitor restrictions or the restrictions on communal activities and dining. If you have not contacted the Recreation Staff for your family member to arrange a virtual visit on Father's Day and wish to do so, you may either contact the staff directly or send an email to suzanned@passaiccountynj.org and she will contact the staff. Happy Father's Day to all!

As a reminder, Passaic County is now offering free COVID-19 testing at home for Passaic County residents and is also offering testing at mobile sites. The last day that the Passaic County test center at William Paterson University will be in operation is this Saturday, June 27, 2020. Please see the Passaic County website for the details.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff and the sacrifices they have made, our **CNAs during Certified Nursing Assistants Week** 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