



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, November 20, 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.

In this Veterans' month, we thank and acknowledge our residents and staff who are Veterans!

On November 19, 2020, representatives from the NJ Department of Health explained during a webinar with senior living healthcare providers the details of its "Long-term Care Testing Regimen Pilot Program" that was to be effective November 23, 2020. While we just learned that the effective date will be delayed, I will share the details with you and then advise regarding the effective date when it is established. Under this Program, all staff, visitors (which in our case are Essential Caregivers or Compassionate Care Visitors), non-employees who come to provide services (such as physicians, lab personnel) and residents who leave and return to the facility (such as residents who go to a physician's appointment, dialysis, emergency room visit) must be tested with a "point of care" nasal swab antigen test on the day the person is in the facility. "All staff" include staff who have previously tested positive and are COVID-recovered and staff who have tested negative. Staff must be tested during the shift the employee is working. The testing frequency is every other day beginning on the effective date. Antigen test results will be available shortly after the test. Staff who receive a positive result from the antigen test must be retested with a PCR test (saliva) and wait at home for the result. Non-employees and visitors who receive a positive result will not be permitted to enter. Written details are pending from the Department of Health.

Please note --- there will not be any change to the weekly testing of residents.

357 staff and 12 physicians/medical personnel were tested on November 18, 2020. All results were negative except for four staff who tested positive. One is a support staff who works in an office and does not have resident contact. Three staff are C NAs who work on resident units 2-200, 2-400 and 3-400. Nursing management staff are in the process of informing the residents and the designated representatives for the residents who received care from the CNAs. Nursing staff will continue each shift to monitor all residents for any change in condition or symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

When the last Update was written, results were pending from the weekly testing of residents on November 9 through November 13, 2020. All results were received except two that are still pending. All results that were received were negative. Residents were tested on November 16

through November 19, 2020. As of the time of this writing, 165 results are pending. Currently, there aren't any residents who are positive for COVID-19 in our Home.

On November 19, 2020, an unannounced COVID-19 Focused Infection Control Survey was conducted by the NJ Department of Health. We are proud to announce that we were found to be in full compliance. We appreciate the work of all staff to provide for our residents each and every day, but especially during the on-going Pandemic.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we will miss gathering with our residents and their families to celebrate the holiday. However, we know that this is in the best interest for the health of our residents and look forward to being able to celebrate together in the future.

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.

If you have questions related to Infection Prevention, please call Cristina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist at 973-585-2181.

Please call 973-585-2145 to speak with Lisandro Perez, Jr to schedule an outdoor visit or if your role as an Essential Caregiver has been approved, to schedule an indoor Essential Caregiver visit. Outdoor visits are weather-permitting.

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) for the details.

As always, and especially during this time of Thanksgiving, 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. Happy Thanksgiving! ***Preakness Strong Heroes Continue to Work Here!***

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA
Executive Director