



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, October 16, 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.

We have received many questions about assistance that may be needed by residents to exercise their right to vote. Residents are assisted by the person of their choice which may include family, friends or staff. Assistance by persons other than staff may be done during scheduled outdoor visitation, essential caregiver visitation or compassionate visitation. It is understood that social distancing cannot be maintained as residents are assisted to vote. Non-staff "assistors" may take the ballot with them to mail or bring to a drop-box. For ballots completed by residents or ballots completed with the assistance of staff assistors, the ballot will be brought to the post office by our bus driver unless a resident requests that the ballot be brought to a ballot drop box. Staff who bear the ballot for residents will be brought to the drop box by our bus driver. Staff who bring the ballot to the drop box must sign as the bearer and may only be the bearer for three residents. Feel free to call Sharon Link, Director of Social Services at 973-585-2148 or me with any questions.

Each week we test approximately 370 staff on Wednesdays and Thursdays and 175 residents, Mondays through Thursdays for COVID. Many staff and testers are needed to accomplish this task. At the risk of forgetting anyone --- residents are tested with nasopharyngeal swabs by Linda VanDerVeen, Nurse Informatics who is assisted by Ibby Grullon, Secretarial Assistant and are tested by Daniel Nasulme, Assistant Director of Nursing who is assisted by Ivette Sanchez, Clinic Attendant, Aleyamma John, MDS Coordinator and Elizabeth Velez, C NA who has been added to the test team. Staff are tested with saliva-based tests under the direction of Dr. Abubakr Alfaouri and his team of testers who brought their experience to us from the first Mobile Test Site that was operated by the Passaic County Health Department: Dr. Reyes, Dr. Chaudhary, Sofia Giron, Liliana Oscanoa, Victoria Osis, Linda Antonucci, Jessica LaPorte, Kaneez Odgers assisted by Linda VanDerVeen, Daniel Nasulme, Ibby Grullon and Ivette Sanchez. Testing the staff and residents requires precise administrative assistance for scheduling and record-keeping. The administrative team is led by Carole Pinto, Confidential Secretary. Her team includes John Reno, Assistant to the Executive Director, Lisandro Perez, Jr, Security Guard, Marc Presta, Security Guard, Annie Perez, Security Guard, Patricia Evans, Sr. Unit Clerk, Melinda McGriff, Sr. Unit Clerk, Joseph Palma, MIS and Ariel Gungil, Accounting Assistant. Transporting the specimens to the lab are Marc Presta, Security Guard, Alex Bachkaz, Sr. Security, Guard, Eugene Maldonado, Sr. Security Guard and Tsegai Ghebreyohannes, Omnibus Driver. We appreciate their outstanding commitment and teamwork as well as our Environmental Services staff who disinfect the testing room!

When the last Update was written, 92 results were pending for staff who were tested on October 7 and 8, 2020. All results have been received and were negative. 372 staff were tested on October 15 and October 16, 2020. 244 results have been received as of the time of this writing. All results

received were negative. The last positive staff test result had been on Sept 29, 2020 from a consultant physician who for reporting purposes is considered our staff. Today we learned that a support staff member who has been out of the facility on a Leave tested positive yesterday.

Resident test results have been received for tests done through October 14, 2020. All results received were negative. 42 results from testing on October 15 are pending.

The influenza vaccine is encouraged and offered to residents and staff. To date, 252 of our 278 residents have received the influenza vaccine. 169 of our 529 staff have received the influenza vaccine to date. We will continue to encourage all residents and staff who do not have medical contraindications to receive the influenza vaccine. Designated representatives for residents are called if the designated representative must approve the administration of the vaccine.

One of our long-term residents from unit 1-200 recently passed away. Our former resident came to us in 2015. He loved music and singing with residents and staff during our musical gatherings and always greeted all with a smile. We offer our condolences to his family and his co-residents and thank our staff who have compassionately taken care of our resident for many years.

Thank you to our “DJs” Tyrone Buggs, C NA and Anthony Sangster, Principal Storekeeper for leading our residents in a lively Outdoor DJ Dance party, Social Distancing Style, in our rotunda courtyard on October 15. And, thank you to all staff who danced with our residents and helped them enjoy a beautiful afternoon.

Congratulations to Gregory Komar, Social Worker on his marriage this past weekend!

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.

Please call 973-585-2145 to schedule an outdoor visit or if your role as an essential caregiver has been approved, to schedule your indoor visit. Please be reminded that social distancing of six or more feet and the wearing of PPE is required during visits. At this point in time, essential caregiver visits are limited to once/week for a maximum of two hours.

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, 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