



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, October 9, 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.

The right of a resident to vote and exercise this right as a citizen or resident of the United States is one of the Resident Rights included in regulatory requirements for nursing facilities. Our residents have begun to receive their ballots. Unless there is a court order that removes a resident's right to vote, all residents are presumed capable of voting because if a resident can express a choice, they can vote. As we have done each year with absentee ballots, residents who request assistance with the completion of the ballot are assisted by the person of their choice which may include a family member, a friend or staff. Assistance by persons other than staff may be done during scheduled outdoor visitation or scheduled essential caregiver visitation. Anyone who helps to complete the ballot must fill out and sign the "assistor" box on the front of the inside envelope. Resident rights guarantee that the exercise of their rights must be without interference, coercion, discrimination or reprisal from the facility. Completed ballots are brought to the post office unless a resident requests that the ballot be brought to a ballot-drop box. Detailed voting information is available from the Long-term Care Ombudsman at <https://www.nj.gov/ooie/div-assets/docs/LTCOvoting.pdf>. Because of COVID-19, the Ombudsman's Office recommends that residents vote by mail and return the ballot via the facility's regular mail process.

When the last Update was written, 54 results were pending for staff who were tested on September 30 and all results were pending from October 1, 2020. All results have been received and were negative. 369 staff were tested on October 7 and October 8, 2020. 75% of the results have been received as of the time of this writing. All results received were negative.

Most resident test results have been received for tests done through October 6, 2020. All results received were negative. Results from testing on October 7 and October 8, 2020 are pending.

One of our long-term residents from unit 1-400 recently passed away. Our former resident came to us in 2015. She loved music and would "dance" with staff and family during our musical gatherings. We offer our condolences to her family and thank our staff who have compassionately taken care of our resident for many years.

Thank you to our "DJs" Tyrone Buggs, CNA; Lamar Davis, Acting Director of Environmental Services and Anthony Sangster, Principal Storekeeper for leading our residents and their visitors

in outdoor entertainment on October 6. We look forward to being able in the future to resume our popular “DJ Dance Parties”.

Thank you to Suzanne McEvoy, Director of Volunteers/ Community Relations, Jose YeYe, Building Maintenance Worker and Tsegai Ghebreyohannes for their work to beautifully bring autumn to life in the courtyards and our entrance.

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 for Passaic County residents and is also offering testing at mobile sites. 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