



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, Sept 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.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), the federal regulatory agency, issued revised guidance (QSO-20-39-NH) yesterday regarding visitation in nursing homes during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Although outdoor visitation is still preferred, the guidance includes core principles of COVID-19 Infection Prevention that must be followed for indoor visitation when a facility has not had a new onset of COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and when the facility is located in a County that meets the positivity rate requirement. The guidance also includes that CMS does not designate categories of visitors such as “essential caregivers” and it clarifies that clergy offering spiritual support could be included as compassionate care visits. It is our understanding that the NJ Department of Health is reviewing the CMS document for possible reissue of the NJ Executive Directives regarding visitation. *Therefore, the CMS guidance is not in effect at this point in time.* We will update you when we receive information from the NJ Department of Health.

We are continuing to work on submitting the required elements of NJ Executive Directive 20-026 for the Resumption of Services in long-term care facilities. Posted today on the Preakness Healthcare Center page of the Passaic County website are our Outbreak Management Plan and Communication Plan. Our required 60 day emergency stockpile of personal protective equipment is almost complete.

Weekly testing of staff and residents continues. From last week’s test of staff on September 9 and September 10, all results received were negative; 12 results are pending. 365 staff were tested on September 16 and September 17. Of the 227 results received, all results were negative. All resident test results received through September 16 were negative. 45 resident test results are pending.

We recently learned that one of our residents passed away in the hospital. Our former resident was a journalist and came to Preakness in March 2017. In his short time with us, we had the opportunity to spend time with his wife who visited frequently pre-pandemic. We offer our condolences to his wife, their four children, family and friends and thank our staff who have taken care of our resident.

Yesterday morning, Rabbi Karpel celebrated Rosh Hashanah for our residents “livestreamed” on our inhouse TV network. Residents had the opportunity to participate in the service and learn about the Shofar. We wish our residents, their families, and our staff who are celebrating Rosh Hashanah a Happy New Year.

For several months, Fr. James Moss has been celebrating mass three times/week “livestreamed” on our inhouse TV network. With Fr. Jim’s permission, I am sharing that Fr. Jim will have minor surgery and will not be available to serve mass for several weeks. With wishes for his speedy recovery, we look forward to his return. Sister Pat has been on medical leave during the Pandemic. She anticipates returning during the Fall.

As we try to creatively continue some of our popular events within the requirements for social distancing and outdoor visitation, weather-permitting, we will have a DJ dance party on the patio on September 30 at 1:30 and 2:30 pm. Given the need for social distancing, reservations are limited to 10 residents and 20 guests at each of the two sessions. If you wish to attend this event at 1:30 or 2:30 pm, please call to schedule your outdoor visit on this date. The 3:30 pm and 4:30 pm visitation sessions on September 30 will be for regular outdoor visitation.

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. Please be reminded that social distancing of six or more feet is required during the visit.

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 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