



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, July 10, 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.

Last year, we celebrated our 90th year of providing care. On Tuesday, one of our residents who was admitted in 1994 and was a part of Preakness for more than a quarter of our history, passed away. At 63 years old, she was admitted to our long-term mental health unit after years of hospitalizations and came to call Preakness “home”. Through the years, due to time and illness, she became totally dependent upon staff and the services of hospice. Hundreds of staff became her family and provided her care for 26 years. Whether a resident has been with us for a long or short period of time, the passing of our resident is mourned by many staff and residents. Yesterday, our resident who was admitted in January 2019 passed away in the hospital. She loved musical events and parties. During conversations with her she spoke proudly about her children. We offer our condolences to their families, friends, and co-residents and to our staff who have taken care of our residents.

Our weekly testing of residents and staff continues. Last week, when our new residents were admitted, both were tested prior to admission and upon admission were retested. Despite testing negative in the hospital, one resident tested positive upon admission. 212 staff were tested on July 8. Two staff tested positive: one from Dietary and one from Environmental Services. Results for the 147 staff who were tested on July 9th are pending.

Given the community spread of COVID in many states, Passaic County issued an Administrative Order that staff who travel to states with COVID-19 testing rates that meet the criteria in Governor Murphy’s travel advisory must quarantine for 14 days before returning to work.

During much of the Pandemic, we had three COVID-19 + units: 3-400 “C” section, Pathway and Plaza West. Transmission-based precautions on Pathway and Plaza West were discontinued because all of the residents who have ever tested positive have tested negative at least two times.

Residents on all units may have outdoor visitors except those who are COVID +, residents who are on the observation section of the 2-400 unit for 14 days and residents on the 3-400 unit that is on Quarantine. It is anticipated that the Quarantine on 3-400 will be lifted on July 17, 2020 for residents who are not COVID+.

Visitation by appointment is scheduled daily, weather permitting, as follows:

- 1:30 pm to 2:15 pm
- 2:30 pm to 3:15 pm
- 3:30 to 4:15 pm
- 4:30 to 5:15 pm

Appointments may be requested by calling 973-585-2132 or by email to lcorrado@passaiccountynj.org. The phone messages are checked when staff are not in the office. As reminders, as per the NJ DOH Directive, visitors may not use facility restrooms nor may visitors or residents smoke or eat during the visit. Water may be brought in but may not be shared. Packages must be left at the Security desk for delivery after the visit. Social distancing must be practiced during the visit and masks must be worn by staff, residents and visitors. The Outdoor Visitation Policy may be obtained from the Passaic County website, www.passaiccountynj.org, under Preakness Healthcare Center or you may request a copy from me.

The following is the cumulative update for our current census of 289 residents and staff:

- Since March 25, we have had one hundred thirteen residents test positive for COVID-19. The cumulative total includes seventy residents who have ever tested positive and have twice tested negative, twenty-nine residents who have ever tested positive and passed away and one resident who passed away who was presumed positive. Thirteen residents are currently positive. Four residents are hospitalized. Three residents are expected to return this evening.
- One hundred sixteen staff have tested positive. One hundred two staff have returned to work.

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 have made 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