



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, October 1, 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.

As you may have heard or read, there is concern for a “twindemic” of COVID-19 and influenza during this year’s influenza season. As we do each year, we are in the process of offering and encouraging all residents and staff to be vaccinated against influenza. For our staff, there is a new, mandatory requirement: NJ Public Health Law (P.L. 2019, Chapter 330) that was passed last year requires healthcare workers in nursing homes (and other sites as per the Law) to be vaccinated against seasonal influenza this season unless there is a medical contraindication. We strongly encourage our families to also be vaccinated against influenza.

On September 24, when the last Update was written, 177 staff test results were pending for staff tests from September 23 and 24, 2020. All results have been received except one that is still pending. All results received were negative. Staff were tested on September 30 and October 1, 2020. At the time of this writing, 175 results have been received for the 229 staff tested on September 30. All results received were negative.

All resident test results have been received for tests done through September 30. All results received were negative. Results from testing on October 1, 2020 are pending.

Since March 2020, most physician visits have been conducted virtually. On September 2, 2020, attending physicians, consultant physicians and consultant practitioners were provided with the requirements to resume on-site visits. The requirements include weekly testing and the wearing of PPE. Five attending physicians and seven consultant physicians/ consultant practitioners have resumed on-site visits. On September 30, one consultant physician informed us of a positive test result from the physician’s test on September 29. The physician had been on-site on September 29 but did not have resident contact. As per the NJ DOH, we are to consider this consultant physician as staff of Preakness Healthcare Center on our required reporting.

As a reminder, the NJ Executive Directive 20-026 for the reopening of nursing homes includes the special category of visitor: Essential Caregivers. As explained on our Essential Caregivers Policy that is posted on the Preakness Healthcare Center page of the Passaic County website, the visit is not a social visit. Essential Caregivers are expected to assist and encourage residents with activities of daily living and care needs. The policy includes an Application and Agreement with Informed Consent that must be returned to me. Upon approval of the application and the

incorporation of the Essential Caregiver's role into our resident's plan of care, the visit will be scheduled. Because we are in Outbreak Status in Phase "O", an Essential Caregiver may visit once/week for a maximum of two hours per visit. Outbreak status is defined as one positive resident or two or more positive staff. Although we are not permitted by the NJ DOH to require Essential Caregivers to be tested for COVID-19, *for the safety of our residents, we strongly urge Essential Caregivers to be tested.*

Staff in nursing facilities strive to assist residents to reach the highest level of practicable physical, cognitive and psychosocial well-being. One of our residents came to us in 1999. Through the years, due to her condition, it became necessary in 2017 for her respiratory functions to be supported by a ventilator. We are appreciative of our clinical team of her Pulmonologist, our Respiratory Therapists, Nurses and CNAs who have worked to wean our resident from the ventilator to a tracheostomy.

Two of our long-term residents recently passed away. Both were from unit 1-400 and have been taken care of by this unit's staff for many years. Our former residents came to us in 2011 and 2017. We offer our condolences to their families and thank our staff who have compassionately taken care of our residents and developed relationships with family members.

Congratulations to Daredree Manradge, Assistant Admissions Officer who found the time during the Pandemic to complete her studies and earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Management!

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.

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