



# Preakness Healthcare Center

## A Legacy of Caring since 1929

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Update, as of April 4, 2020

Despite the precautionary measures we have proactively put into place and the tireless efforts of our staff, we are saddened to report that five of our residents have tested positive for COVID-19. Four of the five residents who were admitted to the hospital from March 25 to March 29, 2020 and are still hospitalized, have tested positive. One resident who was hospitalized has succumbed to this deadly virus. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of our resident.

Staff continue each shift to monitor all residents for any change in condition or symptoms. Residents with changes are placed on precautionary isolation.

Staff have been and continue to be actively screened, prior to starting their shifts, for temperature, illness and exposure risks. Any staff who presents with questionable symptom is sent home with instruction to call their doctor and cannot work until cleared. Staff who are referred for testing for COVID-19 may not work until cleared. We are also saddened to report that thirteen of our staff have tested positive and are in self-quarantine at home.

Please be assured our staff are following all possible infection control protocols to minimize further spread of the virus. As part of our precautionary measures, residents who return from a hospital emergency room or who are discharged from hospital stays reside on a designated unit and isolation precautions are followed. Residents who may have symptoms for possible COVID-19 diagnosis are tested in the hospital and upon return, reside on the designated unit and isolation precautions are followed. Isolation precautions are implemented for presumptive COVID-19 pending the test results. In addition, three resident units have been placed on quarantine for precautionary purposes. To avoid hospital emergency visits unless absolutely necessary, Preakness will have the ability to test residents on-site if clinically appropriate under the direction of the Passaic County Health Department.

We have implemented universal masking for all staff. To further prevent the spread of the virus, we have begun the process to fit test all staff who have contact with residents to wear respirator masks. We appreciate the assistance of an Industrial Hygienist who volunteered his expertise to fit test staff.

At this time, our residents who have tested positive are still hospitalized. When the residents are discharged from the hospital and readmitted, we will follow all CDC and health department instructions for infection prevention and control.

We are extremely grateful to our staff who have continued to care for our residents during these challenging and unprecedented times. Please keep all of our staff in your prayers. We appreciate the support of our residents and families.

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA  
Executive Director

cc: Anthony DeNova, County Administrator  
Kelly Ruffel, Deputy County Administrator  
Dr. Charlene Gunghil, Passaic County Health Officer and Director, Health Department  
Dr. Magda Eraiba, Medical Director  
Dr. Geoffrey Mugalu, Assistant Executive Director  
Suja Samuel, Director of Nursing

Please Note: This Update is posted on the Passaic County website, the Passaic County Facebook page and distributed to all staff. Our social workers will distribute the Update to residents who wish to receive it. Notification of the Update will be made on the Constant Contact email group for families who have elected to provide their email addresses.