



# Preakness Healthcare Center

## A Legacy of Caring since 1929

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Update, January 10, 2021

*Please Note:* This Update is posted on the Passaic County website, 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.

We have completed the first week of COVID-19 vaccinations in partnership with CVS Pharmacy. 205 residents (census total of 260), 160 staff (total 500 staff), 24 essential caregivers, eight contract staff and five medical professionals were vaccinated. 74 of the 160 vaccinated staff are nursing staff (nursing management, nurses and CNAs). Based on the vaccine administrations on January 3, January 4 and January 9, 2021, the dates for the second vaccinations are January 24, January 25 and January 30, 2021. If you have not been vaccinated and wish to be vaccinated, you may receive the first vaccination on the dates when the second vaccinations will be administered. We will advise when confirmation is received. *We continue to encourage all residents and staff who do not have medical contraindications for the COVID-19 vaccine to be vaccinated.*

Many staff worked on our vaccination team. In addition to the staff previously acknowledged, we thank Brian Ommundsen and Ariel Gungil, Business Office for maintaining the database with CVS; Pat Evans, Deborah Ramos, Melinda McGriff, Victoria Pipkin, Unit Clerks and Camille Thompson, Social Services Secretary for processing the consent forms; Juan Saavedra, RN, Hardeep Singh, BSN, RN and Ann Margaret Roman, RN BSN, nursing supervisors for assisting the pharmacy technicians who administered the vaccines to our residents, Linda Washinton, RN for the clinical supervision post vaccination of staff and essential caregivers, Alina Zalenski, CTRS for the registration processing and Ivanilde Ribiero, Building Services Worker for the sanitation in the vaccine administration area. And, to our Dietary staff for lunch.

NJ Executive Directive 20-026 was revised on January 6, 2021 to require staff to be tested twice/week when the regional CALI (Covid Activity Level Index) level is high or very high if point of care testing (such as antigen testing) is available at the nursing home or when off-site testing turnaround time is less than 48 hours. For the week ending January 2, 2021, the level for the entire State was high. *Staff will be tested on Mondays and Wednesdays* using antigen testing.

Residents continue to be tested weekly. One resident who lives on unit 3-400 was tested on January 6, 2021 and the positive result was received on January 9, 2021. A resident who lives on 1-400 was tested with an antigen test on January 10, 2021 and the result was positive. Both residents were transferred to the positive COVID cohort unit on 3-400 "C". 34 results are pending for residents for weekly tests that were completed through January 7, 2021.

Resident units 2-400 ventilator unit and Pathway are on quarantine through January 18. Unit 3-200 is on quarantine through January 16, 2021. Resident units 1-400 and 3-400 are on quarantine through January 23, 2021. *Please note:* Essential caregiver visitation is suspended on all units due to the facility-onset positive resident COVID cases.

New Jersey has established a Vaccine Scheduling System (NJVSS) <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/> for the public to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine. Staff, residents and essential caregivers who will receive their COVID vaccine at Preakness do not need to use this site.

Cristina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist is coordinating our COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Feel free to call Mrs. Hucalla at 973-585-2181 with any questions or to make a reservation for the next COVID vaccine clinics that will begin on January 24, 2021.

Donna Parisi, President of the Resident Council has asked that if there are any concerns or questions for the Resident Council that a message be left with Sharon Link, Director of Social Services at 973-585-2148 and Ms. Link will inform Ms. Parisi.

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. In addition, Dr. Geoffrey Mugalu, Assistant Executive Director may be reached at 973-585-2113 to address any concerns.

Please call 973-585-2145 to speak with Lisandro Perez, Jr to schedule an outdoor visit, weather-permitting. At this point in time, outdoor visitation may occur for residents on units 1-200, 2-200, 1-300 and 2-300. Please be reminded that NJ has restrictions in place for those who travel from other states. Visitors from these states may not visit unless the person has completed the required quarantine period. You may also request an Essential Caregiver application from Mr. Perez for this type of future visit.

Virtual visits may be arranged by calling Alina Zalenski, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at 973-585-2124 or Lee Livingston, Senior Recreation Therapist at 973-585-2163. If there is a request for hair salon services, you may direct the request to Ms. Zalenski or Ms. Livingston.

Passaic County continues to offer free COVID-19 testing at home and at mobile sites for Passaic County residents. Please see the Passaic County website ([passaiccountynj.org](http://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