



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, January 3, 2021

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.

With much optimism and hope for the future, our first COVID-19 vaccination clinic was held today, January 3, 2021, in partnership with CVS Pharmacy and under the direction of Cristina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist and Dr. Alfaouri Abubakr. Assistance from many staff including Patrick Kuiken, Assistant Nursing Supervisor and Evelyn Lintag, Assistant Nursing Supervisor who supervised the resident vaccinations, and Ann Lin Thorton, Quality Improvement Coordinator who managed the administrative processing was appreciated. Seventy-nine staff including three physicians, twenty residents from 1-400, thirty residents from 3-200, one resident from 2-200 (our first resident), one resident from 1-200, nine residents from 2-400 and eleven essential caregivers were vaccinated. Our first resident to be vaccinated from 2-200 was in the rotunda one hour before the CVS team arrived, waiting eagerly to be the first from the Preakness family to be vaccinated! Residents and staff who were not vaccinated today, who have consented to receive the vaccine, will be vaccinated on **January 4, 2021**. CVS has scheduled **January 4, 2021** to continue the vaccinations of residents and staff. The January 8th date is cancelled because CVS will be here on January 4, 2021. January 9, 2021 is our third clinic date. The follow-up dates for the second vaccines are January 24, January 29 and January 30, 2021 (remember to bring your COVID-19 Vaccination Records cards, please). We encourage all staff who do not have medical contraindications for the COVID-19 vaccine to be vaccinated. Staff who need consent forms may obtain the form at the antigen testing registration desk on January 4, 2021.

Since the last update, one C NA who works on resident unit 3-200 tested positive during the antigen testing of 230 staff on January 2, 2021. The 3-200 unit was, therefore, placed on quarantine. All staff will be tested on Monday, January 4 and on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

As of this writing, 40 results are pending for residents for tests that were completed through December 31, 2020.

Resident units 1-200, 1-400, 2-400 including the vent unit, 3-200 and Pathway are on quarantine. Please note: Essential caregiver visitation is suspended on all units due to the facility-onset positive resident COVID cases.

One of our Veterans who was in the Army during World War II and recently tested positive for COVID passed away. He was 95 years old and was part of the "greatest generation" that served our Country to ensure our freedoms. We offer our condolences to his family that includes one of our colleagues, to his family's friends, to his co-residents and to our staff who have taken care of our resident.

Congratulations to Anthony Escobar who has met the Commission on Dietetic Registration's criteria to earn the Registered Dietitian credential!

Cristina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist is coordinating our COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Feel free to call Mrs. Hucalla at 973-585-2181 with any questions.

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 for her 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 2-200, 1- 300, 2-300 and 3-400. 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) 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