



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, April 23, 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.

We are extremely saddened to share with you that the President of our Resident Council passed away yesterday in the hospital. A former school teacher before she joined our family in September 2002 and except for two years when she had the opportunity to live in the community, she has been with us through many changes and challenging times. Never one to sit idle, she advocated for residents as the President of the Resident Council for approximately nine years. In addition, she reached out to Federal, State, County and local elected officials to ensure they were aware of the rights of residents of nursing homes. She invited officials to come to Preakness to understand what it meant to be a resident and their obligations as public servants to provide the resources for the care of residents in nursing homes. In addition to her persistent advocacy efforts, she was a volunteer for the Preakness Hospital Auxiliary and worked tirelessly to raise funds for the benefit of our residents, and she also raised funds for the Resident Council to support the needs of residents. Gardening and landscaping were important activities and with the assistance of her family and volunteers, each Spring she oversaw the planting of flowers in our rotunda courtyard patio. She fully embraced that Preakness was her home and often expressed her thanks for the staff who cared for her and about her. On Monday evening, with assistance from one of her family members, I had the opportunity to speak with her in the hospital. She expressed that she was eager to return and that she missed us. We will certainly miss her! We thank our staff who have taken care of our long-time resident and offer our condolences to her family, to her roommate and to her co-residents who have shared their lives with her.

Last week, we learned that one of our residents from 1-200 passed away in a hospice facility. She joined our family in September 2018. She enjoyed spending time with her co-residents in various activities, and many a conversation was started because of the "cat" that was her constant companion. We thank our staff who have taken care of our resident and offer our condolences to her family and co-residents who shared many experiences with her.

Since the last Update on April 16, 2021, we have not had any positive COVID test results. With the exception of six results that are still pending, all results for resident tests this week were received and were negative. We currently have one resident who is positive (test date of April 16, 2021).

Staff were tested on Monday and Thursday; all results were negative. We currently have eight staff with positive test results out of work (last test date of April 14, 2021).

The NJ Long Term Care Ombudsman and the NJ Department of Health issued a Summary of

Current Guidance for Visitation in Long-term care Facilities that is available on their website (www.nj.gov/ooie). It includes that children over the age of two can visit who can wear a wellfitting mask and abide by social distancing requirements.

Suja Samuel, our Director of Nursing has announced her retirement, effective May 1, 2021. You may contact Daniel Nasulme, BSN, Acting Director of Nursing (973-585-1409) or Aleyamma John, BSN, Acting Assistant Director of Nursing (973-585-5911) with any questions or concerns.

Window washers will be on-site during the week of April 26, 2021. Their work will not interfere with outdoor visitation.

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 schedule outdoor, compassionate or end of life visits. Phone messages are checked each day including weekends. As of April 23, 2021, we can offer outdoor visitation (for all units except the 2-400 Observation, 2-400 Respiratory/trach and 2-400 COVID positive unit), compassionate care visits and end of life visitation.

If there are concerns or questions for the Resident Council and you need to reach Theresa Nikithser, Vice President of the Resident Council, please leave a message with Sharon Link, Director of Social Services at 973-585-2148.

Virtual visits or hair salon requests 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.

Passaic County continues to offer free COVID-19 testing at home and at mobile sites for Passaic County residents, and COVID vaccines for eligible patients. Please see the Passaic County website (passaiccountynj.org) for the details.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff, their sacrifices 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