



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, April 8, 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.

Because the COVID-19 Activity Level Index remains at the high level for Passaic County (and the entire State), staff will continue to be tested twice/week. On April 6 and April 8, 2021, staff were tested with antigen tests. One clerical staff who works on 3-400 and 3-200 tested positive during the April 8, 2021 tests. We currently have five staff who are positive out of work.

Residents were tested on Monday through Thursday. All results were received except the tests performed today: all results were negative. Currently, we do not have any residents who are positive for COVID-19.

We were fortunate to be able to have an on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinic on April 7, 2021 with the Johnson & Johnson one-dose vaccine for staff and residents who consented to receive the vaccine. 117 staff and 22 residents were vaccinated. We now have 92% of our residents and approximately 68% of our staff vaccinated. With thanks to the Passaic County Health Department and our staff (at the risk of forgetting anyone): Christina Hucalla, Damian Dymka, Dr. Bakr (Alfourri), Diane Weil, Nadia Kadweh, Vivian Halassan, Linda Washington, Alina Zalenski, Ann Lin Thorton, Lisandro Perez, Jr, and Ivanilde Riberio.

We said good-bye to our 101 year old resident from resident unit 1-400 this week. Our resident joined our family in January 2020 and shared with us that she was a midwife in Italy in her younger days before coming to the United States. She was proud of her work and of her family who she spoke about often. She referred to many of us as "Lady" and we will miss our Lady. We also said goodbye to one of our residents who was admitted in February 2021. We are saddened that we didn't have more time to get to know her. We thank our staff who have taken care of our residents and offer our condolences to their families and co-residents.

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 care or end of life visits. Phone messages are checked each day including weekends. As of April 8, 2021 we can offer outdoor visitation (for all units except the 2-400 Observation Unit), compassionate care visits and end of life visitation.

If there are concerns or questions for the Resident Council and you need to reach Donna Parisi, 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.

Best wishes to our residents, their families and our staff who will observe Ramadan next week.

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