



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, January 14, 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 share this Update with heavy hearts at the passing this afternoon of one of our residents from unit 1-300 who has been a part of the lives of many residents and staff for 21 years. She will be missed by many. I will miss her feedback on life at Preakness. We offer our condolences to her family and friends, to her co-residents and to our staff who have taken care of our resident.

Staff were tested on-site on January 13, 2020 with antigen tests for the required second test/week. One nursing supervisor tested positive.

122 results are pending for residents for weekly tests that were completed through January 14, 2021. Resident units on quarantine are as follows:

- Unit 2-400 ventilator unit and Pathway through January 18, 2021.
- Unit 3-200 through January 16, 2021, 2021
- Unit 1-400 through February 1, 2021
- Unit 3-400 through January 24, 2021
- Unit 1-200 through January 20, 2021

- Please note: Essential caregiver visitation is suspended on all units due to the facility-onset positive resident COVID cases.

Included in NJ Executive Directive 20-026 that was revised on January 6, 2021 is the requirement for universal eye protection when social distancing is not possible. Staff are provided with goggles or faceshields.

We have received questions regarding who may receive COVID-19 vaccines at Preakness since New Jersey has expanded who may be vaccinated. We may offer vaccines to residents, staff and essential caregivers. We cannot offer vaccines to family members of residents who are not essential caregivers nor can we offer vaccines to family members of staff. We also cannot offer vaccines to volunteers because volunteers have not been permitted to enter Preakness since March 2020.

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. We encourage all residents, staff and essential caregivers who do not have medical contraindications for the COVID-19 vaccine to be vaccinated.

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. Outdoor visitation may occur for residents who are not on isolation or quarantine. 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 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