



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, January 22, 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.

When I joined the staff of Preakness in 2000, one of the first residents I met was our resident who passed away yesterday morning. He was one of our “young at heart” residents at 46 years old, with a chronic illness that he knew would be progressively debilitating over time. He brought with him professional experience from his career and after adjusting to his new life, used his experiences to advocate for residents as the President of our Residents’ Council for 12 years. He served the Council during the time when the future of Preakness was under review and passionately “lobbied” for a new, state of the art, Preakness. He was a frequent participant at Freeholder meetings to make sure that the needs of the residents were known and he was appreciative when the decision was made to create a new Home. He was an award recipient as “Resident of the Year” by Leading Age NJ. We are extremely saddened by his passing and acknowledge his contributions to our Legacy of Caring and to our history. We thank our staff who have taken care of our long-time resident, a friend to many, and offer our condolences to his family and to his co-residents who have shared many experiences with him.

During this week’s testing of residents, one resident who was admitted to our observation unit on January 19 and was tested on January 20, 2021 tested positive. Prior to admission, our resident received two negative test results. Two residents who were tested on January 21, 2021 tested positive: one resident from 2-400 who is on a tracheostomy and one resident from 3-200. Five residents are currently positive. Two results are pending for residents for weekly tests that were completed through January 21, 2021. In order to meet the needs of residents with respiratory conditions such as the need for a ventilator or tracheostomy, 2-400 “C” will be the COVID positive cohort rather than 3-400 “C”.

411 staff were tested on January 20, 2021 and 115 staff were tested on-site on January 21, 2021. No staff tested positive. A nurse who works on 3-200 and was tested off-site, tested positive on January 22, 2021. Resident units on quarantine are as follows:

- Unit 1-400 through January 23, 2021
- Unit 3-400 through January 22, 2021
- Unit 1-200 through January 31, 2021
- Unit 3-200, “H” section through February 4, 2021

- Please note: Essential caregiver visitation is suspended on all units until there have been 14 days without a positive resident, facility-onset, case.

The second series of COVID-19 vaccination clinics with CVS are on January 24, January 25 and January 30,

2021, from 10 am to 4 pm. Residents, staff and essential caregivers who received the first vaccine will receive their second vaccination. Residents, staff and essential caregivers may also receive the first vaccine on these dates with the second vaccine administered during the week of February 14, 2021. Please call Christina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist at 973-585-2181 with any questions or to make a vaccination reservation. We encourage all residents, staff and essential caregivers who do not have medical contraindications for the COVID-19 vaccine to be vaccinated.

The NJ Long-term Care Ombudsman has published the January issue of The Beacon at www.state.nj.us/ooie. This issue includes information on the recent stimulus payment of \$600 that most nursing home residents will receive. Feel free to call Mario Ratto, Chief Accountant at 973-585-2176 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 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, a compassionate visit or an end of life visit. Outdoor visitation may occur for residents who are not on isolation or quarantine. You may request an Essential Caregiver application from Mr. Perez.

Virtual visits or requests for hair salon services 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. 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