



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, June 18, 2021

Celebrating National Nursing Assistants Week (June 17 – 23, 2021), Juneteenth and Father's Day

Please Note: This Update is posted on the Passaic County website and 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 cautious optimism and continued vigilance, we are pleased to share that the Outbreak that began with a positive COVID test result from September 8, 2020 was concluded on June 16, 2021 after a 28 day period without any positive results for residents or staff. We continue to thank our staff for the care that has been provided to our residents despite the many challenges since the start of the Pandemic.

Effective June 17, 2021, staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to be routinely tested on a weekly basis unless we return to Outbreak status. Outbreak is defined as any one positive result in a staff or resident. Staff include contractors and vendors, physicians, contracted staff. Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks past the last dose of a two-dose vaccine or a one-dose vaccine. 75% of our staff are fully vaccinated. On June 17, 101 of the 135 staff who are not vaccinated were tested on-site; all results were negative. We encourage all staff who do not have medical contraindications to be vaccinated.

87% of our residents are fully vaccinated. Residents will not be tested unless we return to Outbreak status.

As we "reopen", it is wonderful to see families and friends who are visiting our residents. We are beginning to reintroduce resident group activities in accordance with required COVID protocols. Thank you to Tyrone Buggs, Lamar Davis and Tony Sangster for the outdoor DJ Dance party on June 16, 2021. Father Jim offered the first non-virtual mass with residents from 1-300 on June 17, 2021 and will offer mass for residents of other units next Tuesday and Thursday before he leaves for vacation. We will celebrate Juneteenth on June 19, 2021 with resident activities and a BBQ luncheon and a Father's Day special lunch will be served on June 20, 2021. Our butterflies, nurtured by the residents of 1-200, have grown and will be released on June 18, 2021 in the Rotunda Patio. At this point in time, visitors may not attend resident activities.

June 17, 2021 was the beginning of the national celebration of Certified Nursing Assistants Week with the theme, Dedicated to Making a Difference. CNAs make a difference every day in the lives of those entrusted to their care. One word sums up what CNAs do for a resident: everything. CNAs are on the forefront of providing care for residents, and equally important, offering friendship and companionship. We are grateful for the work of our CNAs!

Phones for staff and residents are being replaced. Phone numbers will remain the same. Ron Pangilinan and Joe Palma from our MIS staff are assisting residents to become familiar with the new phones.

We offer a few reminders regarding visitation and COVID protocols:

Designated visiting locations are: a resident's room with the permission of the roommate if the resident

has a roommate; outdoor patios, sitting rooms, activity rooms, resident library and resident game room if not in use by residents. Rehab and the Rotunda Café areas are not designated visiting location. Please socially distance from other residents/visitors. Please do not approach roommates of residents for permission to visit. Please refer questions to the nurse or nursing supervisor.

Children two years of age and older who can wear a face mask and socially distance may visit.
Pets may not visit.

Visiting hours are 10 am to 7 pm, seven days per week. Two visitors at any one time may visit. The limitation of two visitors at any one time is in accordance with current NJ Executive Directives. All visitors must wear a face mask provided by Preakness Healthcare Center and follow all infection prevention protocols of Preakness Healthcare Center.

Visitors who are fully-vaccinated who are visiting a fully vaccinated resident may, within the resident's room if the roommate is not present, remove the face mask and have close contact. Visitors may bring food items for a resident that are consistent with the resident's dietary plan of care. Please refer questions to the nurse or dietitian.

Visitors may bring items for a resident to the resident's room. Visitors who wish to feed a resident must be trained. Dining or assistance with dining is not permitted in any space except the resident's room. Please refer the request to be trained to a nursing supervisor who can be reached by calling 973-585-2131 or 973-617-7496.

Visitors may resume bringing resident laundry from the facility to be laundered off-site if that is the resident/visitor's preference. Please transport the soiled laundry in a plastic bag. The washers/dryers that are located on units 1-300, 2-400 and 1-200 at this point in time are restricted for use by residents who live on the units because residents and visitors from another unit are not permitted to travel throughout the facility.

If you prefer to visit outdoors and need assistance to schedule a visit, please call 973-585-2145. Outdoor, scheduled, visitation hours are 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 4:30 pm.

Throughout the Pandemic, virtual visits were offered during restricted visitation and were facilitated by our Therapeutic Recreation staff. Recreation staff are now focused on conducting resident activities. Since visitation is available seven days/week, we ask that virtual visits not be requested by families who plan to visit indoors or outdoors. If a virtual visit is needed, please call Alina Zalenski, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at 973-585-2124 or Lee Livingston, Senior Recreation Therapist at 973-585-2163.

Residents who have a physician's order to go out on pass and are not on quarantine or isolation may do so. Please contact Tina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist at 973-585-2181 to discuss the process and receive the required education.

This week, we said goodbye to one of our long-term residents on resident unit 3-200, the husband of one of our nurses, who joined our family in January 2018. We offer our condolences to our resident's wife and family and thank our staff who have taken care of our resident.

Our Resident Council under the leadership of Theresa Nikithser, Vice President will be holding elections for officer positions on July 1, 2021. If there are concerns or questions for the Resident Council and you need

to reach Theresa Nikithser, please leave a message with Sharon Link, Director of Social Services at 973-585-2148.

Tina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist is finalizing the plans for an on-site vaccination clinic on June 30, 2021 for residents and staff who consent to be vaccinated. Feel free to call Mrs. Hucalla at 973-585-2181 with any questions.

It is anticipated that our hair salon will reopen on June 21, 2021. Thank you for your patience during the time it was temporarily closed.

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 or if you are new to Preakness and have not had the opportunity to become familiar with our Home due to COVID restrictions, to arrange a time to meet with Dr. Mugalu. Daniel Nasulme, BSN, Acting Director of Nursing may be reached at 973-585-1409.

Passaic County continues to offer free COVID-19 testing for Passaic County residents and COVID vaccines for eligible patients. Please see the Passaic County website (www.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