



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, March 18, 2021

Celebrating National Social Work, Nutrition and Women's History Months

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.

On March 23, 2021, the NJ Department of Health will provide updated information on holiday visitation guidance, overall visitation guidance and vaccine allocations for long-term care. Although there have been many articles written and news broadcasts on the visitation changes announced by CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) and the CDC, we must continue to follow the current regulations and directives of the NJ Department of Health until any changes are announced on March 23, 2021. We will provide an update after the information is released.

Since the last Update, tests continue to be conducted weekly for residents and twice/week for staff. All results received from the resident testing were negative. Forty-seven results are pending. We currently have one asymptomatic COVID+ resident. One C NA from 3-200 "G" section who was tested off-site was notified of a positive test result on March 17 from a test performed on March 16, 2021. Residents on 3-200 "G" section are on quarantine. Seven staff who are positive are out of work.

The CALI (COVID-19 Activity Level Index) for our region of New Jersey remains at the "high" level. Staff will, therefore, be tested twice during the week of March 22, 2021.

We hope you enjoyed St. Patrick's Day. Thank you to our Dietary staff for the traditional meal. We look forward to resuming our St. Patrick's Day party next year and to welcoming back our bagpiper.

Our 89 year old resident from 3-400 recently passed away in the hospital. She has been part of our family since March 2016. Her quiet presence will be missed. We thank our staff who have taken care of our resident and offer our condolences to her family and co-residents.

We recently said goodbye to one of our residents from 3-400 who has been part of our Home since June 2011. She went home to live with her daughter. We wish her well!

Sister Pat and Father Jim are preparing services for Easter and Passover. A Passion/Palm Sunday Mass will be celebrated on March 29, 2021 at 11 am. Palms will be distributed to each resident unit. A Passover prayer service will be offered on March 30, 2021 at 11:00 am. Holy Thursday Mass will be on April 9 at 2:00 pm, Good Friday Prayer Service on April 2 at 2:00 pm, and Easter

Sunday Mass on April 4 at 11:00 am. All services and masses may be viewed on our in-house television channel.

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.

For families who wish to visit from out of state, although the State of New Jersey continues to advise against such travel, there are provisions for “essential travel” that includes individuals traveling to and from the State of New Jersey for medical reasons, including individuals who are providing comfort and support to a patient. You can find the requirements on the New Jersey website or please call us with any questions.

Please call 973-585-2145 to schedule outdoor, compassionate care or end of life visits. Phone messages are checked each day including weekends. With sunset beginning later in the day, if you would like to visit at 4:30 pm, please let us know. As of March 18, 2021 we can offer outdoor visitation, 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 and Ms. Link will inform Ms. Parisi. Ms. Parisi asked me to share with our residents that due to restrictions on resident communal gatherings, the Resident Council will postpone their officer elections until the residents can meet together.

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