



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, March 26, 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.

The NJ Department of Health released the Holiday Visitation Guidance today. The DOH "strongly recommends against families taking residents out of facilities for holiday celebration events or gatherings in particular if those residents are not fully vaccinated". The DOH encourages outdoor visitation whenever possible. If you do wish to take your family member out, the "COVID-19 Exposure Risk Assessment" provided by the NJ DOH will be completed by Christina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist to determine if a quarantine of 14 days will be required upon return. Residents and families are expected to follow all infection prevention and control measures including social distancing, hand hygiene and wearing a well-fitting cloth face covering or surgical face mask. Residents who leave and are not vaccinated or who are not fully vaccinated must quarantine upon return. The Holiday Visitation Guidance will be posted on the Preakness page of the Passaic County website (www.passaiccountynj.org).

Based on the last positive result on March 16, 2021 for a staff member and a new positive test result for a resident on 1-300 that was received on March 25, 2021 we are still in an Outbreak. Thirteen results are pending from testing on Thursday. Currently, one resident is positive on our 2-400 COVID+ unit and five staff who are positive are out of work.

As explained in the NJ DOH Directive on Visitation Guidance that was released on March 22, 2021, when a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified in an area other than where the positive case was identified (our unit 3-200 on March 16), all visitation (except for visits required under federal disability rights law and NJDOH guidance/directives) is suspended until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing (no new cases identified for 14 days since last positive case).

- With the positive resident result on 1-300 which is from a different area than unit 3-200, we cannot have indoor or essential caregiver visitation.

Earlier this week, we were saddened to learn of the passing in the hospital of one of our 89 year "young" residents from 1-400. He became part of our family in November 2018. Despite the challenges that come with advancing age, he always remained positive, offered warm and witty responses to situations and was never without a smile or encouraging word. We thank our staff who have taken care of our resident and offer our condolences to his family 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 March 26, 2021 we can offer outdoor visitation (for all units except the 2-400 Observation Unit, the 2-400 COVID+ unit and 3-200 "G" section), 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.

Happy Passover to our residents and families who will celebrate Passover.

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