



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, March 5, 2021
Celebrating National Social Work and National Nutrition 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.

This morning, the NJ Department of Health presented a Webinar on topics that included quarantines, vaccines and visitation. It was explained that the criteria for visitation issued by the NJ Department of Health continue to evolve based on directives from the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services and the changeable situations from the impacts of the Pandemic. Criteria include outbreak status of a Home (one positive resident or one positive staff constitutes an Outbreak), the CALI index (COVID-19 Activity Level Report) and New Jersey travel quarantines. Last week, we were excited that the CALI index for Passaic County had decreased to the moderate level allowing us to prepare for socially distanced indoor visitation. However, on March 4, 2021, the CALI index was published for the week ending February 27, 2021 and the Index for Passaic County had returned to a high level which will preclude indoor social visitation. Department of Health staff confirmed that vaccination status of residents or visitors is not included in visitation criteria. It was reiterated that compassionate care visits must be for the resident's well-being and cannot be routine visits. New Jersey travel quarantines must be followed. Based on the presentation, as of March 4, 2021, we may allow outdoor visitation, compassionate care visits and end of life visitation. Essential Caregivers may not enter until there are fourteen days without a resident or staff testing positive. The last positive test date for a resident was on February 15 and for staff on February 24, 2021.

All results were received from the resident testing this week except three pending results. All results received were negative. We do not currently have any COVID+ residents.

434 staff were tested on March 3, 2021. All results were negative. Due to the high CALI index level, staff will resume twice weekly testing next week on March 8 and March 10, 2021. Nine staff who are positive are out of work.

Resident units 1-200 "G" section and five residents on 1-200 "H" section, 2-200 "H" section and 3-200 "H" section are on quarantine for 14 days that began on February 24, 2021.

On February 24, 2021, our 89 year old resident, a Veteran of the Korean War, who lived on resident unit 2-200 passed away in the hospital. He has been part of our family since April 2015. When he came to live with us, many staff and residents recognized him from his auto body business in Paterson and spoke of his generosity to many people. His life experiences included that he was a Deacon and he often sang Gospel songs with his co-residents when they sat together in the afternoons. We thank our staff who have taken care of our resident and offer our condolences to his family and to his co-residents.

On March 10, the National Park Service will present an interactive virtual tour of the Great Falls of Paterson.

We are in the midst of an energy conservation project with an electrical contractor to relamp our lighting fixtures with LED bulbs. Our Facilities staff completed the renovation of the resident rooms in the 2-300 unit and are beginning the renovation of the resident rooms in the Pathway unit.

Please call 973-585-2145 to schedule outdoor, compassionate care or end of life visits. Phone messages are checked each day including weekends. The temperature is expected to be in the 60's several days next week. We look forward to seeing you during outdoor visits!

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.

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