



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, March 23, 2021

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

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.

The Governor in a press briefing on March 22, 2021 announced the updates to visitation guidance for residents and families in Nursing homes. The guidance includes:

- Compassionate care visits continue for all residents, regardless of their vaccination or COVID-19 status.
- Outdoor visits are permitted at all times for residents who are not COVID-19 positive and who are not in quarantine under transmission-based precautions. These visits are allowed regardless of the phase the facility is in and the COVID Activity Level Index (CALI) for the region.
- Indoor visits are allowed at all times for all residents, regardless of their vaccination status or the facility's phase under ED-20-026, except if an outbreak occurs in a facility. In that event, certain steps must be taken for visitation to continue, which are detailed in the guidance document.
- For residents who are COVID positive, whether they are vaccinated or unvaccinated, indoor visits should be limited until they have met the criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions.
- For residents who are in a quarantine period, regardless of their vaccination status, indoor visits should be limited until they meet the criteria for release from quarantine.
- For unvaccinated residents and residents who are not fully vaccinated (i.e., are more than 2 weeks from the date of their final vaccine dose), indoor visitation should be limited if the facility is in a region with a CALI score that is high or very high and less than 70 percent of the residents in the facility are fully vaccinated.
- Residents who are fully vaccinated can choose to have close contact, including touch, with a visitor as long as they are wearing properly fitting masks, such as a surgical mask.

As of March 23, 82% of our residents are fully vaccinated. We are still in outbreak status. The last positive result was received on March 16, 2021 for one staff member.

We will post the Memorandum from the NJ Department of Health on the Preakness page of the Passaic County website (www.passaiccountynj.org).

The NJ Department of Health presentation that was scheduled for today was rescheduled until March 24 at 1:00 pm. A new initiative to vaccinate long-term care staff and residents who wish to be vaccinated will be discussed during the presentation.

Since the last Update, tests continue to be conducted weekly for residents and twice/week for staff. All results received from the resident testing last week were negative. We currently do not have any residents who are positive. 430 staff were tested yesterday. All results were negative. Five staff who are positive are out of work.

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 23, 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.

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