



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, March 10, 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.

As a nursing facility, we are regulated by the Federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the NJ Department of Health and must adhere to the regulations and directives of both CMS and NJ DOH. One year ago on March 8, 2020, we restricted visitors to address the impact of COVID. CMS issued guidance (QSO-20-39-NH) today to expand visitation options, recognizing that physical separation from family and loved ones has taken a physical and emotional toll on residents and their loved ones. The CMS guidance includes the following in addition to continuing to facilitate compassionate and end of life visits:

- Facilities should allow responsible indoor visitation at all times and for all residents, regardless of vaccination status of the resident, or visitor, unless certain scenarios arise that would limit visitation for:
 - Unvaccinated residents if; 1) the COVID-19 county positivity rate is greater than 10 percent; and 2) less than 70 percent of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated;
 - Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met the criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions; or
 - Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.
- A facility should not restrict visitation for all residents as long as there is evidence that the transmission of COVID-19 is contained to a single area (e.g., unit) of the facility.
- When a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified, a facility should immediately begin outbreak testing and suspend all visitation until at least one round of facility-wide testing is completed. Visitation can resume based on the following criteria:
 - If the first round of outbreak testing reveals no additional COVID-19 cases in other areas (e.g., units) of the facility, then visitation can resume for residents in areas/units with no COVID-19 cases. However, the facility should suspend visitation on the affected unit until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.
 - If the first round of outbreak testing reveals one or more additional COVID-19 cases in other areas/units of the facility (e.g., new cases in two or more units), then facilities should suspend visitation for all residents (vaccinated and unvaccinated), until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing.

As soon as we receive the NJ Department of Health directives based on the CMS guidance, we will provide an Update.

While we were hopeful that this Update would include that no resident or staff had tested positive in the last fourteen days and we could welcome back our residents' Essential Caregivers, we had two positive test results this week: one resident who lived on 2-300 was tested on March 8 and his test result that was received on March 9, 2021 was positive. One Dietary worker tested positive today during our antigen testing of staff. Therefore, as of March 10, we can offer outdoor visitation, compassionate care visits and end of life visitation.

All results were received from the resident testing this week for tests performed on Monday and Tuesday. Five results are pending from tests performed on Tuesday and twenty-three from tests today. We currently have one COVID+ resident.

431 staff were tested on March 8, 2021. All results were negative. 448 staff were tested today. One result was positive. Eight staff who are positive are out of work.

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. *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