



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, May 20, 2020

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.

Preakness Healthcare Center is regulated by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the NJ Department of Health. On Monday, CMS released “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) regarding guidance to State and local governments on the reopening of nursing facilities, visitation and testing requirements. The FAQs are available on the CMS website (www.cms.gov). CMS recommended that nursing facilities not open to visitors except for compassionate care situations until there have been no new nursing home COVID-19 cases in the nursing home for 28 days in addition to other conditions including adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies, adequate access to testing for COVID-19 and taking into account the bed capacity of hospitals. Fortunately throughout the Pandemic, we have had adequate supplies of PPE, cleaning supplies and access to testing. CMS has recommended that visitation continue to be restricted until Phase Three when visitation would be allowed with screening and precautions for social distancing, hand hygiene and the wearing of face coverings. To date, the NJ DOH has not issued any directives to allow visitation except for compassionate care situations.

On Monday, we retested our residents who live on the 2-300 and 1-400 units who did not refuse to be tested. Four residents tested positive: two residents from 2-300 and two residents from 1-400. On Tuesday, we retested our residents who live on the 1-200 and 2-200 units who did not refuse to be tested. One resident’s test result was “presumptive positive” and the test was repeated today. The result is pending. Three residents tested negative who had previously refused testing. Today, we tested one hundred forty six staff. The results are pending. Tomorrow we will retest our residents who live on the 3-200 and 3-400 units. This will include the residents on 3-400 who have previously tested positive to determine when their transmission-based precautions may be discontinued and when our residents may move from the cohort units. Staff will be tested again on Friday.

The following is the cumulative update for our current census of 294 residents and 529 staff:

- Since March 25, we have had one hundred nine residents test positive for COVID-19 and have one resident who tested presumptive positive (retest is pending). The cumulative total includes eleven residents who were positive and have twice tested negative, twenty-one residents who tested positive and passed away and one resident who

passed away who was presumed positive. Two hundred twenty-one residents have tested negative. Ten residents are hospitalized. One resident returned from the hospital yesterday and is on hospice.

- Eighty-six staff have tested positive and two hundred ninety staff have tested negative. Forty-nine staff have returned to work.

As we approach Memorial Day, we will miss gathering with our residents outdoors to celebrate with our usual Memorial Day parade to remember those who have given their lives for our freedoms. We are planning unit-based remembrance activities for Memorial Day and hope to have our postponed parade in the future.

Many thanks for the continued support of our residents, families, staff, the community and those who assist in the testing of residents and staff during these challenging and emotional times. ***Preakness Strong Heroes Do Work Here!***

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA
Executive Director