



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, Sept 1, 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.

Last week, the NJ Department of Health provided a reference guide for the NJ Executive Order for the Resumption of Services in nursing facilities that outlines the requirements of each phase in the reopening and what may occur in each phase. The document will be posted on the Preakness Healthcare Center page of the Passaic County website (passaiccountynj.org) and copies will be available during outdoor visitation times. We are in Phase 0 as we await the completion of 28 days of no confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in residents or staff. The last positive test result for a resident was on July 2, 2020 and the last positive test result for staff was on July 30, 2020. As of today, we need to provide to the DOH three pending test results for staff that were tested within the 28 day period before the NJ DOH can determine that our outbreak concluded and we can submit the required documentation requesting approval to move to Phase 1. Our weekly testing of residents and staff continues.

Information on the implementation of “Essential Caregivers” was provided by the NJ DOH last week during a webinar presentation. It was clarified that an essential caregiver is not a social visitor, but is expected to provide care for activities of daily living as approved by the facility. The program that was implemented at another facility was explained as an example of how the program could be structured to include an application, training requirements for the caregiver and liability releases. Although there isn’t a requirement that the essential caregiver be tested for COVID, it was recommended that the caregiver be encouraged to be tested and to also be vaccinated for the flu. These recommendations will be included in our policy that is in development.

The cumulative update for our current census of 282 residents and staff remains unchanged:

- Since March 25, we have had one hundred fourteen residents test positive for COVID-19 including thirty-one residents who have ever tested positive and passed away and one resident who passed away who was presumed positive.
- One hundred twenty-one staff have tested positive. One hundred twenty staff returned to work.

Due to rain and uncertain weather this past Saturday and today, we had to cancel several visiting sessions. We try to wait as long as possible to cancel since the weather may change and

the cancellation of visitation is disappointing to residents and their guests. Please call 973-585-**2145** to schedule an outdoor visit. The phone is answered on weekdays between the hours of 9 am to 5 pm, and is checked for messages at other times. If there are special circumstances for a visit that can be accommodated within the Executive Order of no more than two visitors at a time during an outdoor visit, please call me to discuss your circumstances.

As shared in the last Update, we are accepting food for delivery to residents *on weekdays, between the hours of 11 am to 1 pm*, in containers that can be sanitized that will not affect the integrity of the food within it. Beverages in sealed bottles or cartons are accepted. Beverages in take-out type containers are not accepted.

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.

Passaic County continues to offer free COVID-19 testing at home for Passaic County residents and is also offering testing at mobile sites. Please see the Passaic County website for the details.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff and the sacrifices they have made and the continued support of our residents, families, colleagues throughout Passaic County, 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