



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, April 29, 2021

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.

On Tuesday, April 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) updated recommendations for infection prevention and control based on COVID-19 vaccination. Yesterday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updated its visitation and testing requirements to incorporate the CDC recommendations. As of this afternoon, directives from the NJ Department of Health (NJ DOH) are pending. Based on the CMS Memorandum:

- Visitation guidance remains the same.
- Group activities for fully vaccinated residents can occur without social distancing and without masking. Staff must continue to wear a mask. If unvaccinated residents participate, then all must wear masks and social distancing should occur.
- Communal dining for fully vaccinated residents can occur without social distancing and without masking. If unvaccinated residents participate, social distancing should occur and masks should be worn when residents are not eating.
- Healthcare staff who are fully vaccinated can dine and socialize in a break room and participate in meetings in person without masking or social distancing. If unvaccinated staff are present, everyone should wear masks and practice social distancing.
- Residents and visitors who are all fully vaccinated can choose to have close contact, including touch, and to not wear masks when they are alone in the resident's room or a designated visiting area.
- Fully vaccinated healthcare personnel may be exempt from expanded screening testing, except during an outbreak, after a high-risk exposure or if symptomatic.

Since the last Update on April 23, 2021, we have not had any positive COVID test results for residents or staff. All results for resident tests this week were received and were negative. We currently do not have any residents who have tested positive. Staff were tested on Monday and today; all results were negative. We currently have seven staff with positive test results out of work (last test date of April 14, 2021). Because we have not had a positive test result for a resident or staff for at least 14 days, Essential Caregiver visits may resume on Friday, April 30, 2021. To schedule an Essential Caregiver visit, please call 973-585-2145 or you may send an email to me at lcorrado@passaiccountynj.org. An Essential Caregiver may visit once/week for a maximum of two hours per visit. Essential caregivers may visit between the hours of 10:30 am to 5 pm. We can accommodate 10 Essential Caregivers/day.

Although we have not had a positive result in 14 days, we are still considered to be in Phase "0", Outbreak Status until we complete 28 days without a positive result. However, we can (and will) submit to the NJ

Department of Health (NJ DOH) the Attestation to request indoor social visits based on the 14 days of negative results. Please be advised that seventy-two hour notice is required to the NJ DOH before indoor social visitation may occur. We will update you on the status for indoor social visitation when received. Social visitation will occur in resident rooms if the resident does not have a roommate or in our main dining room.

As explained in the last Update, the NJ Long Term Care Ombudsman on behalf of the NJ DOH has communicated that children over the age of two who can wear a well-fitting mask and abide by social distancing requirements may visit.

To date, 89% of our residents (based on a census of 258 residents) and 69% of staff (based on 500 staff) have been vaccinated. We ask staff to please provide a copy of your vaccination cards so that we can update our records.

Window washers will continue their work on April 30 and during the week of May 3, 2021. Their work will not interfere with outdoor visitation.

We are arranging to provide tents on the courtyard patio for outdoor visitation.

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, Essential Caregiver, compassionate or end of life visits. Phone messages are checked each day including weekends.

If there are concerns or questions for the Resident Council and you need to reach Theresa Nikithser, Vice President of the Resident Council, please leave a message with Sharon Link, Director of Social Services at 973-585-2148.

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