



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, August 10, 2021

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.

We were informed yesterday afternoon that a nurse who is fully vaccinated and works on resident unit 2-300 tested positive during an off-site test. The last day that our nurse worked was on August 5, 2021. With this test result, we must suspend outdoor visitation while we conduct facility-wide outbreak testing. This is based on the May 12, 2021 Directive issued by the NJ Department of Health that included that when a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified, a facility should immediately begin outbreak testing of residents and staff regardless of vaccination status and suspend all visitation including outdoor visitation. Despite the verbal clarification given during a recorded webinar by staff of the NJ Department of Health on May 19, 2021 in which it was stated that outdoor visitation could occur for residents who are not on transmission based precautions, on August 5, 2021 during a webinar with NJ Department of Health staff, the discussion included that outdoor visitation could not occur during outbreak testing.

We currently do not have any residents who have tested positive. We have two staff with positive test results out of work (last test date of August 9, 2021).

General indoor visitation must remain suspended until at least two additional rounds of testing of all residents and staff regardless of vaccination status are completed. Compassionate or end of life visits may be scheduled at 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm and 4 pm. Please call 973-585-2145 to schedule compassionate or end of life visits.

Residents who have a physician's order to go out on pass and are not on quarantine or isolation may do so. Please contact Tina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist at 973-585-2181 to discuss the process.

If there are concerns or questions for the Resident Council and you need to reach Robert Herman, President, please call Alina Zalenski, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at 973-585-2124.

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 or Daniel Nasulme, Acting Director of Nursing may be reached at 973-585-1409 to address any concerns.

Passaic County offers free COVID-19 testing for Passaic County residents, COVID vaccines and COVID Relief programs. Please see the Passaic County website (www.passaiccountynj.org) for the details.

Best wishes for our residents, their families and our staff who are celebrating the Islamic New Year.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff, their sacrifices and the continued support we receive during these challenging and emotional times. ***Perseverance Strong Heroes Continue to Work Here!***

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA
Executive Director