



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, February 26, 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.

Each week, the NJ Department of Health releases the "COVID-19 Activity Level Report". This Level will be used to determine when indoor socially distanced visitation in nursing facilities can resume and it also establishes the testing frequency for staff. We are grateful to all who live in Passaic County that the COVID activity level for Passaic County for the week ending February 20, 2021 decreased from high to moderate. This will enable us to seek approval to have indoor visitation when:

- No new facility-onset COVID-19 cases are identified in the last 14 days;
- We are not conducting outbreak testing;
- There is a mechanism to collect informed consent from the residents and visitors;
- There is a designated location for indoor visitation;
- The facility has sufficient staff, a mechanism for appointments, and sufficient PPE and cleaning and disinfection supplies to permit safe visitation.

While we wait for this visitation, Essential Caregiver visitation may resume when we complete a 14 day period of not having a resident test positive. The last positive result received for a resident was on February 15, 2021.

All results were received from the resident testing this week except twelve results. All results received were negative. If the twelve pending results are negative, Essential Caregiver visitation will resume on March 2, 2021 for residents who are not on quarantine or isolation. Currently there are two residents on the COVID positive unit.

415 staff were tested on February 24, 2021 with saliva tests. Two staff tested positive: one nurse who worked on resident unit 1-200 and one nurse who worked on units 2-200 and 3-200. Ten results are pending. Due to the CALI moderate level, staff will be tested once/week. Staff will be tested again on March 3, 2021 with saliva tests.

Resident units 1-200 "G" section and five residents on 1-200 "H" section, 2-200 "H" section and 3-200 "H" section are on quarantine for 14 days that began on February 24, 2021. The 1-400 quarantine will end on March 3, 2021.

On Monday, our 100 year old resident who lived on resident unit 3-400 passed away. She has been part of our family since December 2011. We thank our staff who have taken care of our resident and offer our condolences to her family and to her co-residents.

We also offer our condolences to the family of Janet Rigamonti who passed away this week. Mrs. Rigamonti was the President of the Preakness Hospital Auxiliary for many years.

Effective March 1, 2021, Suzanne McEvoy, Director of Volunteers and Community Relations will answer calls on 973-585-2145 to schedule outdoor, compassionate, end of life and essential caregiver visits. Please leave a message on the phone and Ms. McEvoy will call you to schedule the visits. Phone messages are checked each day including weekends. We are exploring software options to be able to schedule visits on-line in the future.

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