



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, February 4, 2021
Celebrating Black History Month

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.

Careers in healthcare often require the sacrifice of staff who work to bring life, compassion, companionship and friendship to our residents. With immense thanks to our staff who came to work during the Nor'easter and its aftermath to meet the needs of our residents:

- ***To staff from all departments for the teamwork to assist our residents!***
- To our Nursing Supervisors, Nurses and CNAs for their flexibility to work where needed and to work additional shifts to care for our residents.
- To our Buildings and Grounds staff who worked day and night in snow and wind to plow our parking lots and roadways, clean our sidewalks and the outdoor patio to prepare for outdoor visits.
- To our drivers from Buildings and Grounds, Environmental Services, Safety and Security who drove through the storm and navigated mountains of snow to safely transport staff to work, to the Environmental Services staff who coordinated the transportation and to the Security staff who helped with the phone calls.
- To our Environmental Services staff for "Hotel Preakness" for staff to stay over during the storm to be ready for their shifts.
- To our Dietary and Clinical Nutrition staff for the meals.
- To our COVID test team who maintained the testing schedule for our residents.
- And, to our families who understand our need to be with our residents and who take care of things at home for us while we are at Preakness!

As the storm ended on February 2, Groundhog Day, we looked forward to the groundhog not seeing his shadow – unfortunately, he did. Six more weeks of winter --- our team is ready!

Of the results received from the resident testing on February 1, 2021 through February 3, 2021, three residents have tested positive: two residents from unit 2-200 and one resident from unit 2-300. One of the three residents previously tested positive in April 2020. Two of our residents were fully vaccinated. Our residents were transferred to the COVID positive 2-400 "C" unit. The roommates of the residents who tested positive were placed on transmission-based precautions for fourteen days. 63 results are pending from this week's tests.

Due to the storm, staff were tested on February 3, 2021 and will be tested again on February 5, 2021. Of the results received thus far from the 397 staff who were tested with saliva tests, two staff tested positive: one staff from Environmental Services who worked on unit 1-200 and one C NA who worked on unit 2-300.

260 results are pending. Residents who were exposed to the staff were placed on transmission-based precautions for fourteen days.

- Please note: Essential caregiver visitation continues to be suspended on all units and will be suspended until there have been 14 days without a positive resident, facility-onset, case.

Thank you to Sherry Turner, Recreation Therapy Aide, for the beautiful decorations for Black History Month on unit 2-300 and the wreath that she made for our main lobby.

CVS completed six vaccination clinics for our residents, staff and essential caregivers. 198 residents were fully vaccinated and 9 residents have had the first vaccine. 172 staff were fully vaccinated and 55 staff have had the first vaccine. CVS confirmed that second vaccines will be administered on February 14, 15 and 20, 2021. There aren't any plans at this point in time for CVS to return to administer first vaccines.

The NJ Department of Health requested that we disseminate information on two virtual townhalls that the NJ Department of Health is hosting regarding vaccines. Participation is free:

- February 11 at 7 pm, specifically related to concerns in Black and Caribbean communities:
<https://register.gotoebinar.com/register/1577234449455960077>
- February 15 at 7 pm specifically related to concerns in the Latinix community:
<https://register.gotoebinar.com/register/565691448483659789>

Donna Parisi, President of the Resident Council has asked that if there are any concerns or questions for the Resident Council that a message be left with Sharon Link, Director of Social Services at 973-585-2148 and Ms. Link will inform Ms. Parisi.

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 speak with Lisandro Perez, Jr to schedule an outdoor visit, a compassionate visit or an end of life visit. Outdoor visitation may occur for residents who are not on isolation or quarantine. You may request an Essential Caregiver application from Mr. Perez.

Virtual visits or requests for hair salon services 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. Please see the Passaic County website (passaiccountynj.org) for the details. Passaic County is also offering COVID vaccines for eligible patients. Registration: passaiccountynj.org/COVIDvax.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff and the sacrifices they make 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