



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, June 28, 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 are pleased to share that we do not have any residents or staff who have tested positive for COVID. The current requirement for routine testing is that unvaccinated staff are tested weekly. To date, we have 229 residents from a census of 264 who are fully vaccinated and 383 of 500 staff fully vaccinated.

On Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 10 a.m., we will administer Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to residents/designated representatives, staff or families who have provided written consent.

Our Summer barbeques on the rotunda patio will begin on Thursday, July 1 (rescheduled from June 30 due to the excessive heat warning). At this point in time, BBQs are resident-only events. BBQs are scheduled for each unit each week beginning with:

- 1-200 on July 1, 2021; 2-200 on July 7, 2021; 3-200 on July 14, 2021

With the return of one of our two hair stylists from Leave, the hair salon is now open.

New Jersey recently enacted legislation that pertain to long-term care facilities:

- PL 2020, c87, effective June 16, 2021, requiring each facility to have an electronic medical record capable of sharing required data with the NJ Health Information Network. The system we utilize has this capability and we are working on the implementation including resident/designated representative consent forms.
- PL 2020, c133, effective July 1, 2021, that requires healthcare personnel to identify on their name tag the license or certification that the healthcare worker has. We are in the process of distributing the tags to licensed and certified healthcare staff.
- PL 2021, c33, effective September 3, 2021, regarding the rights of LGBTQI+ residents and the required educational, posting and policy actions that facilities must take. We will complete the required training in July and will share the information after the training sessions.

We offer a few reminders regarding visitation and COVID protocols:

Designated visiting locations are: a resident's room with the permission of the roommate if the resident has a roommate; outdoor patios, sitting rooms, activity rooms, resident library and resident game room if not in use by residents. Rehab and the Rotunda Café areas are not designated visiting location. Please socially distance from other residents/visitors. Please do not approach roommates of residents for permission to visit. Please refer questions to the nurse or nursing supervisor.

Children two years of age and older who can wear a face mask and socially distance may visit.

Pets may not visit.

Visiting hours are **10 am to 7 pm, seven days per week**. Two visitors at any one time may visit. The limitation of two visitors at any one time is in accordance with current NJ Executive Directives. All visitors must wear a face mask provided by Preakness Healthcare Center and follow all infection prevention protocols of Preakness Healthcare Center.

Visitors who are fully-vaccinated who are visiting a fully vaccinated resident may, within the resident's room if the roommate is not present, remove the face mask and have close contact.

Visitors who wish to feed a resident must be trained. Assistance with dining is not permitted in any space except the resident's room. Please refer the request to be trained to a nursing supervisor who can be reached by calling 973-585-2131 or 973-617-7496.

Visitors may resume bringing resident laundry from the facility to be laundered off-site if that is the resident/visitor's preference. Please transport the soiled laundry in a plastic bag. The washers/dryers that are located on units 1-300, 2-400 and 1-200 are restricted for use by residents who live on the units because residents and visitors from another unit are not permitted to travel throughout the facility.

If you prefer to visit outdoors and need assistance to schedule a visit, please call 973-585-2145. Outdoor, scheduled, visitation hours are 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 4:30 pm.

Throughout the Pandemic, virtual visits were offered during restricted visitation. Since visitation is available seven days/week, we ask that virtual visits not be requested by families who plan to visit indoors or outdoors. If a virtual visit is needed, please call Alina Zalenski, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at 973-585-2124 or Lee Livingston, Senior Recreation Therapist at 973-585-2163.

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 and receive the required education.

If there are concerns or questions for the Resident Council and you need to reach Theresa Nikithser, Vice President, please leave a message with 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 Mugal, 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 continues to offer free COVID-19 testing for Passaic County residents and COVID vaccines for eligible patients. Please see the Passaic County website (www.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