



# Preakness Healthcare Center

## A Legacy of Caring since 1929

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Update, March 24, 2021

Celebrating National Social Work, Nutrition and Women's History Months

*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.

Today, staff from the NJ Department of Health reviewed the visitation guidance that was released on March 22, 2021. This guidance is intended to supplement the existing Executive Directives of the State. The conclusion of an outbreak still requires a 28 day period without a staff or resident testing positive. It was explained that indoor visits may resume during an Outbreak as follows:

When a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified, outbreak testing must resume and all visitation (except for visits required under federal disability rights law and NJDOH guidance/directives) is suspended until at least one round of facility-wide testing is completed. Examples discussed:

- If the first round of outbreak testing reveals no additional COVID-19 cases in other areas than where the positive case was identified, then visitation can resume for residents in areas with no COVID-19 cases. Using our recent positive case in a staff on 3-200 as an example, unit 3-200 would be restricted from indoor visitation but visitation could occur on other units.
- If the first round of outbreak testing reveals two or more COVID-19 cases in the same area as the original case, but not in other area(s), visitation can resume for residents in areas with no COVID-19 cases.
- If the first round of outbreak testing reveals one or more additional COVID-19 cases (resident and/or staff) in other area(s) than where the positive case was identified, then visitation is suspended for all residents (vaccinated and unvaccinated), until the facility meets the criteria to discontinue outbreak testing (no new cases identified for 14 days since last positive case).

Based on the last positive result on March 16, 2021, we are still in an Outbreak. This week would be considered our "first round of outbreak testing". For resident tests this week, 67 results are pending from Tuesday and Wednesday and resident testing will be completed tomorrow. 439 Staff were tested again today and all results were negative.

Visiting requirements also include the facility giving at least 24 hr notice to the NJ DOH to resume indoor visitation, scheduled visits to consider the amount of visitors on site for safe visitation, designated visiting areas, having sufficient PPE for visitors and sufficient staff for supervision. We will advise as soon as we meet the requirements for the indoor visiting.

**The NJ DOH and the NJ Office of the Ombudsman will have a webinar on March 25 at 2 pm for residents, families and caregivers to discuss visitation. The Ombudsman's website is [www.nj.gov/ooie](http://www.nj.gov/ooie).**

Holiday visitation guidance for residents who wish to go out for the Passover and Easter holidays was not ready for presentation during the webinar.

Preliminary information for an initiative with nursing home pharmacy providers to vaccinate long-term care staff and residents who wish to be vaccinated was discussed. When we receive more detailed information, we will share it with you.

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, compassionate care or end of life visits. Phone messages are checked each day including weekends. As of March 24, 2021 we can offer outdoor visitation, compassionate care visits and end of life visitation.

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](http://passaiccountynj.org)) for the details.

Happy Passover to our residents and families who will celebrate Passover.

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