



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, May 11, 2021

Celebrating Older Americans Month, Mental Health Month, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Nurses Week and National Skilled Nursing Care Week

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 hope you had a Happy Mother's Day! Many thanks to our staff who cooked and served the holiday meal, assisted with outdoor and virtual visits and deferred their own Mother's Day celebrations to take care of and to be with our residents.

Last week, we recognized our nurses during National Nursing week: "Nursing More than a Profession, It's a Calling". Our nurses demonstrate this calling every day and lead our interdisciplinary teams in the provision of care for our residents. May their work inspire others to pursue nursing as a calling! Our RN with the longest length of service has been with us since 1992 and our LPN with the longest length of service has been with us since 1993!

This week, we recognize all staff during National Nursing Home week: "Together Through the Seasons". As demonstrated each and every day during the Pandemic (and pre-Pandemic), all staff are essential in their roles to provide a Home for our residents.

Due to the decrease of COVID-19 activity to the moderate level in Passaic County (and throughout the State), staff will be tested once/week. On May 10, 2021, 426 staff were tested with antigen tests. One CNA who works on resident units 1-200/2-200 tested positive. Because all residents who were assigned to our CNA are fully vaccinated, residents with potential exposure were not placed on quarantine. Due to the positive test result, outbreak testing will continue and we cannot offer Essential Caregiver or social visitation at this point in time. Residents were tested yesterday and today. Results received to date are negative.

We currently do not have any residents who have tested positive. We have seven staff with positive test results out of work (last test date of May 10, 2021).

Our celebration of Cinco de Mayo on May 5, 2021 was postponed due to weather. We will celebrate with our residents and staff with a DJ Dance party on the rotunda patio on May 12, 2021.

On May 7, 2021 we said good-bye to our resident from 1-200 who joined our family during January 2021. He was the brother of one of our former staff. We thank the family for entrusting his care to us and wish we had had more time to spend with him. We offer our condolences to his family and to his co-residents and thank our staff who have taken care of our resident.

The May 2021 issue of “The Beacon” published by the NJ Long-Term Care Ombudsman is available on the Ombudsman’s website, <https://www.state.nj.us/ooie>.

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 or end of life visits. Phone messages are checked each day including weekends. *As of May 11, 2021, outdoor visits are permitted for all residents with the exception of the residents on unit 3-200 “G” who are on quarantine, the 2-400 “D” observation unit or who are on transmission-based precautions.

If there are concerns or questions for the Resident Council and you need to reach Theresa Nikithser, Vice President of the Resident Council, please leave a message with Sharon Link, Director of Social Services at 973-585-2148.

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