



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, May 13, 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.

On May 12, 2021, the NJ Department of Health issued a Directive (ED 21-02) regarding topics that included visitation, COVID-19 testing, and communal dining and activities. The protocols for visitation include that when a new case of COVID-19 among residents or staff is identified, a facility should immediately begin outbreak testing of residents and staff regardless of vaccination status of residents and staff and suspend all visitation including outdoor visitation. We had one staff test positive on May 10, 2021 and outbreak testing for what is considered the "first round" of testing is in progress. Therefore, as per the NJ Department of Health protocol, outdoor visitation is suspended until further notice until all results from testing are received. For this first round of testing following the positive staff result, residents were tested on May 10 through May 13, 2021. All resident test results from testing on May 10 through May 12, 2021 were negative. Staff will be retested on May 17, 2021. We will advise after the results are received from the outbreak testing if outdoor visitation may resume.

NJ Directive ED-21-02 can be found at https://www.state.nj.us/health/legal/covid19/3-22-21_ExecutiveDirectiveNo21-001_StandardsProtocolsVisitorsFacilityStaff.pdf. NJ Executive Directive 21-001 also includes:

- Logging and screening everyone entering the facility, regardless of vaccination status.
- Written informed consent from visitors and residents.
- Details on how vaccination status affects what can occur during a visit.
- Adjustments to routine testing for fully vaccinated staff, except during outbreak or if staff present with symptoms, and testing requirements for unvaccinated staff.
- Details on how to conduct and arrange communal activities and dining to account for vaccination status.
- Volunteers may be permitted in facilities subject to the requirements for staff. At a later date, we will review the return of volunteers.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an interim final memo QSO-21-19-NH that requires nursing homes to:

- Educate residents, representatives, and staff on the benefits and potential side effects of COVID-19 vaccination. The nursing home must document that education has been provided and whether the vaccine was accepted or declined.

- Offer COVID-19 vaccination to all residents and staff who are not previously vaccinated and for whom there are no contraindications to COVID-19 vaccination. If the nursing home cannot immediately offer vaccination, the nursing home must provide information for alternatives to accessing vaccination. A Nursing Supervisor will speak with unvaccinated residents and/or their designated representatives to provide the education and discuss vaccination. Inservice will be scheduled for unvaccinated staff. Written consent will be required before a vaccine may be administered.

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).

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 compassionate or end of life visits. Phone messages are checked each day.

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 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