



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, September 15, 2021

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

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.

While continuing the required testing of residents and staff while we are in Outbreak status, we received one positive test result today for a C NA who is not vaccinated who worked on resident unit 1-300. Residents who were exposed who are not vaccinated or who are partially vaccinated are on quarantine. Nursing staff informed our residents and their designated representatives. Due to the positive result, we must continue to suspend general indoor and outdoor visitation while we conduct additional testing of residents and staff. Residents were tested on September 13th, 14th and today. All results are pending. Staff were tested today and will be tested again on September 22, 2021. Residents will be tested on September 20, 21, 22, 2021.

Compassionate or end of life visits may be offered and scheduled. If you prefer that the compassionate visit occur outdoors, please include this in the message when you call to schedule the visit. Compassionate indoor visits may be scheduled at 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm and 4 pm. Compassionate outdoor visits may be scheduled at 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm or 4:30 pm. If you have special needs, please let us know. Please call 973-585-2145 to schedule compassionate or end of life visits.

We are awaiting direction from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and the NJ Department of Health regarding the regulatory requirements for mandatory COVID vaccination of staff. The current NJ Department of Health directive for mandatory staff vaccination includes the option to test weekly in lieu of mandatory vaccination. To date, 402 of our approximately 500 staff are fully vaccinated; nine are partially vaccinated.

At the onset of the Pandemic, virtual physician visits were approved and are still permitted. At this point in time, most physicians have resumed in-person visits. All physicians and nurse practitioners who come to Preakness are fully vaccinated. If you have any questions regarding whether the physician for your family member has resumed in-person visits, please call Ann Lin Thornton, Quality Improvement Coordinator at 862-345-5919.

CDC and NJ Department of Health guidance includes that moderately to severely immunocompromised residents should receive a third dose of vaccine. Criteria include residents receiving active cancer treatment, residents with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency, advanced or untreated HIV infection, treatment with high dose corticosteroids. Approximately 40 residents meet the criteria. Nursing supervisors will provide education and obtain written consent from the residents and/or designated representatives before a third vaccine is administered.

On September 9, 2021, the NJ Department of Health announced that it anticipated issuing a directive if there is Federal authorization for a booster for fully vaccinated residents and staff. If the directive is issued, nursing supervisors will provide education and obtain written consent from the residents and/or designated representatives for the booster vaccine before a booster vaccine is administered.

The current edition of “The Beacon, A Newsletter for Long-term Care Residents” is available at www.Ltco.nj.gov. The current edition includes information on compassionate care visitation.

We were recently asked to clarify how the Update letters may be accessed on the Passaic County website:

- After reaching the website (www.Passaiccountynj.org):
 - Click on the COVID-19, Learn More tab
 - Select Notices
 - Select Preakness Healthcare Center

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 or Daniel Nasulme, Acting Director of Nursing may be reached at 973-585-1409 to address any concerns.

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