



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, as of April 19, 2020
(As of 4 pm)

Please Note: This Update is posted on the Passaic County website, the Passaic County Facebook page and distributed to all staff. Our social workers will distribute the Update to residents who wish to receive it. Notification of the Update will be made on the Constant Contact email group for families who have elected to provide their email addresses.

Yesterday and today, the Governor's messages included that there may be reason to be cautiously optimistic.

Since our last update on April 15, one resident has tested positive, and, sadly, two of our residents who have tested positive have passed away. On April 16 and April 17, eight residents were tested at Preakness and the results are still pending. To date, thirty-one residents have tested positive and twelve of the thirty-one residents have passed away. All but three residents have lived on the same resident unit. On April 18, three residents were admitted to the hospital. Their results of COVID testing are pending.

If you are new to receiving the updates, Preakness has 524 staff. All staff of Preakness are considered essential employees and staff in all departments are engaged in providing services and care for our residents. To date, thirty-six staff have tested positive. Thirty-nine staff have tested negative. The results of thirteen staff are pending. Several staff who have been out on quarantine since the effects of the pandemic were first experienced at the end of March are returning to work. We give thanks for their recoveries and look forward to their return.

Calls will continue to be made by nursing staff to the designated representatives for residents who are directly impacted by illness, testing or hospitalization. We are fortunate to have the ability to test on-site without a visit to an emergency room to give our physicians the timely information they need to treat residents who do test positive. We are continuing to cohort together residents who have tested positive, residents who are presumed positive pending test results and residents who do not exhibit any signs or symptoms of illness and are grateful to the staff who are working on our quarantined unit. All residents who return from an emergency room visit are isolated on a separate wing of a resident unit for approximately fourteen days.

On Friday, our spirits were lifted tremendously by the Appreciation Drive-by procession and support shown by Freeholders Lazazara, Bartlett and Lepore, the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, local police, fire and emergency services departments, and County Clerk Danielle Ireland-Imhof who came to cheer us on. Thank you to all we weren't able to personally thank.

For families who we still need to connect with to arrange a Facetime or Webex virtual visit, please feel free to contact Suzanne McEvoy, Director of Volunteers and Community Outreach at suzanned@passaiccountynj.org. Suzanne McEvoy will be posting our Preakness Press as often as possible.

As always, we are grateful to our staff who continue to care for our residents and to our staff with responsibilities to support the direct care staff. Through the teamwork of many, we have never been without personal protective equipment nor have we encountered a challenge that could not be addressed. Many thanks for the continued support of our residents and families during these challenging and emotional times.

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA, Executive Director