



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, Aug 12, 2020

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.

On August 10, the NJ Department of Health issued Executive Directive 20-026 for the Resumption of Services in Long Term Care Facilities. If you wish to read the Directive, it is available on the NJ Department of Health website. The Directive follows New Jersey's, "The Road Back: Restoring Economic Health Through Public Health" phased approach which can also be found on the NJ website. In order to reach Phase 3 to allow indoor visitation by the prescribed timeframes in the Directive:

- Facility must not have an active outbreak. Outbreaks are considered concluded when there have been 28 days with no new positive staff or residents and a survey has been conducted by the NJ DOH;
- Staff testing must continue weekly;
- Facility must be fully staffed and have an emergency staffing plan;
- Facility must have a two month stockpile of PPE for emergency use only;
- Facility must post on its website its communications strategy and Outbreak Plan;
- Facility must have an infection control employee or contracted service that meets the requirements of the Directive.

We will share more of the details as we advance through the Phases. All facilities are at "Phase 0" as of August 10, 2020.

The Directive also includes a new category of "Essential Caregiver". As defined in the Directive, an Essential Caregiver can be an individual who was previously actively engaged with the resident or is committed to providing assistance with activities of daily living. The Essential Caregiver may visit during Phase 0, once/week for up to two hours. We will be developing criteria and a policy for this new category of caregiver and will share it when completed.

On August 6, we closed our COVID + cohort on resident unit 3-400C because we currently do not have any residents who need COVID + transmission based precautions. Since there continues to be community spread of the virus, we will keep the 3-400 C section of the unit vacant until further notice to be prepared in the event one of our residents tests positive and needs to be on transmission based precautions in a COVID+ cohort.

Our weekly testing of residents and staff continues. Resident results are pending from August 5 through the present. From the staff who were tested on August 5 and August 6, no one tested positive. We are, therefore, on day 12 of not having a resident or staff test positive.

The following is the cumulative update for our current census of 284 residents and staff:

- Since March 25, we have had one hundred fourteen residents test positive for COVID-19 including thirty-one residents who have ever tested positive and passed away and one resident who passed away who was presumed positive.
- One hundred twenty-one staff have tested positive. One hundred eighteen staff have returned to work.

Since the last Update, two of our long-term residents passed away including one who had previously tested positive. Our 99 year old “Bingo Queen” who recently became a great-great grandmother passed away. She was admitted in 2012 and she, and her daughter, were active participants in our celebrations pre-pandemic. Many residents will miss the assistance offered by our resident’s daughter. Our 76 year old resident came to Preakness in March 2019. Residents and families who celebrated New Year’s Eve with us in 2019 will remember his beautiful voice as he sang lovingly to his wife. We are always saddened by the loss of our residents who become our family and we offer our condolences to their families, friends, and co-residents and to our staff who have taken care of our residents.

Congratulations to Deborah Douglas on the achievement of her LPN license! We look forward to Ms. Douglas bringing her caring and compassionate experience as a C NA to her new role as a nurse for our residents.

The New Jersey Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman maintains a website, www.NJ.GOV/LTCO and among the resources on its site are monthly newsletters.

Passaic County continues to offer free COVID-19 testing at home for Passaic County residents and is also offering testing at mobile sites. Please see the Passaic County website for the details.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff and the sacrifices they have made and the continued support of our residents, families, colleagues throughout Passaic County, the community and those who assist in the testing of residents and staff during these challenging and emotional times. ***Preakness Strong Heroes Do Work Here!***

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA
Executive Director