



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, Aug 24, 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.

Last week, the requirements of NJ Executive Directive 20-026 for the Resumption of Services in Long Term Care Facilities were clarified by representatives of the NJ Department of Health. In order to move from Phase 0, the starting Phase for all facilities, to the next Phase, the following requirements must be met and an Attestation submitted to the NJ DOH:

- Facility must have an Outbreak Plan and post it on its website.
- 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 the local health department or the NJ DOH concludes that the Outbreak is over.
- An Infection Control Focused Survey has been conducted by the NJ DOH (to date, we have had two surveys: 6/3/20 and 7/16/20).
- Staff testing must continue weekly.
- Facility must be fully staffed and have an emergency staffing plan.
- Facility must have a two month stockpile of Personal Protective Equipment for emergency use only.
- Facility must post on its website its communications strategy and have an emergency number to contact.
- Facility must have an infection control employee or contracted service that meets the requirements of the Directive.
- Facility must meet testing and data reporting requirements as directed by the NJ DOH.

When we enter Phase 2, indoor visitation will be permitted on an appointment basis in designated visiting locations. Visitation may only occur in a resident's room if the resident is in a single room.

We are in the process of finalizing the "Essential Caregiver" policy. Among the State requirements is that each facility determine the number of visitors it can safely allow into the facility. The Essential Caregiver may visit during Phase 0, once/week for up to two hours. The DOH clarified that an essential caregiver does not need to be tested for COVID.

Our weekly testing of residents and staff continues. Resident results are pending from August 18 through the present. From the staff who were tested August 12 through August 20, there weren't any positive results. Results are pending for approximately 12 staff.

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 nineteen staff have returned to work.

Since the last Update, three of our residents passed away, including our second oldest resident who was 103. Our Centenarian was admitted in 2018 and lived on unit 2-200. Our 95 year old resident was admitted in 2017 and lived on unit 2-200 and our 89 year old resident was admitted in 2017 and lived on 1-400. Through the years, we had the pleasure to meet and interact with their families. We offer our condolences to their families, friends, and co-residents and to our staff who have taken care of our residents.

On August 19 through August 21, surveyors from the NJ DOH were on-site to review concerns regarding dignity/respect, staffing levels, food, incontinence care, the monitoring of resident movement, infection control and two incidents we had reported to the NJ DOH. We were informed today that we are in substantial compliance with the requirements for long term care facilities based on this visit.

Families have asked if food may be delivered for residents. According to the NJ Ombudsman, a facility may accept food for delivery to residents that the facility determines it can safely accept. Delivery personnel are not permitted within the facility. *On weekdays, between the hours of 11 am to 1 pm*, we will accept food from delivery personnel in containers that can be sanitized that will not affect the integrity of the food within it. Beverages in sealed bottles or cartons will be accepted. Beverages in take-out type containers will not be accepted.

Effective August 26, please call 973-585-**2145** to schedule an outdoor visit. The phone will be answered on weekdays between the hours of 9 am to 5 pm, and will be checked for messages at other times.

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.

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,

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