



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, December 15, 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.

Today, a resident who lives on resident unit 1-300 was tested with an antigen test and tested positive. Our resident was transferred to the 3-400 C, COVID positive unit. The 1-300 resident unit has been on quarantine status since December 12, 2020. This positive result is considered a “facility-onset” case. All previously positive residents on the 1-300 unit who were not tested on December 14 as part of the weekly testing of residents and who did not refuse to be tested were tested today for outbreak testing.

Essential caregiver visitation is suspended on all units due to the facility-onset positive COVID19 case and outbreak testing. If you were planning to decorate your family member’s room during your Essential caregiver visit, and wish to provide the decorations to Alina Zalenski, Director of Therapeutic Recreation, she will arrange to have our Recreation staff decorate the room while you participate via a virtual visit. As a reminder, Essential Caregiver Visitation and outdoor visitation may not occur for residents on 2-400 C (observation unit) and 3-400 C (COVID positive unit).

Residents continue to be tested weekly. 153 results from the resident testing on December 8 through December 15, 2020 are pending.

The NJ Long Term Care Ombudsman has asked that nursing facilities remind residents and their designated representatives that residents have the right to receive care consistent with their preferences and that residents have the right to create advance care planning documents. Our Social Workers and the care plan team members will review with residents or their designated representatives our residents’ current preferences and treatment plans. Please direct any questions to our social workers. If you wish to review information on the Ombudsman’s website the web address is www.state.nj.us/ooie.

Sorrowfully, during the last week, four of our long-term residents have passed away.

- One of our residents who lived on 1-300 was the son of one of our residents and the brother of one of our staff. He was sixty years old and came to live with us in July 2019.

- Our resident who lived on 3-400 has called Preakness home since January 2007. He was 71 years old and was one of our residents who first came to Preakness in Building One when it was in Haledon.
- Our resident who lived on our ventilator unit also came to Preakness in Building One in 2002. She was 65 years old.
- Our resident who lived on 3-400 came to call Preakness home in 2013. She was 93 years old.

We appreciate the opportunities we have had to share experiences with our residents and to learn from the life experiences they have shared with us. We offer our condolences to our residents' families, friends, and co-residents and to our staff who have taken care of our residents for many years.

We will begin providing educational materials to our residents and staff regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. Information is available for your review at https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/EUA_Pfizer_FactSheet_for_Recipients.pdf. Although there isn't a cost to those who receive the vaccine, we are required to provide copies of insurance cards/prescription cards for the registration. If you do not have insurance, you will still be able to receive the vaccine.

If you are an Essential caregiver and wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at Preakness, please inform Cristina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist at 973-585-2181 or by email at THucalla@passaiccountynj.org.

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 speak with Lisandro Perez, Jr to schedule an outdoor visit, weather-permitting. Outdoor visitation may occur on all units except 1-300, weather permitting, as we prepare for our first snowstorm of the season. You may also request an Essential Caregiver application for this type of visit once the outbreak testing is completed and the visits resume.

Virtual visits 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. If there is a request for hair salon services, you may direct the request to Ms. Zalenski or Ms. Livingston.

Passaic County continues to offer free COVID-19 testing at home and at mobile sites for Passaic County residents. Please see the Passaic County website (passaiccountynj.org) for the details.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff and the sacrifices they make 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