



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, December 24, 2020

Please Note: This Update is posted on the Passaic County website, 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, we received a positive COVID test result for one resident on our 1-400 resident unit from a test on December 21, 2020. In addition, one C NA who worked on 1-400 and was tested off-site reported a positive test result. Our resident was transferred to the 3-400 C, COVID positive unit. As of this writing, 117 results are pending for residents for tests that have been completed through today.

Due to the generosity of the Preakness Hospital Auxiliary, our residents received holiday gifts today. In addition, with thanks to the generosity of American Legion Auxiliary #289, each resident who is a Veteran received a gift from the American Legion Auxiliary. As per COVID precautions, "Santa" was not able to join us nor were we able to carol through our Home as has been our tradition for many years. However, we assisted "Santa" and distributed the gifts. We thank our Therapeutic Recreation staff under the direction of Alina Zalenski, Director for wrapping the presents and organizing the gift pass.

Our quarantine status remains as follows: *Please note:* Essential caregiver visitation is suspended on all units due to the three resident, facility-onset positive COVID cases:

- 1-300 (quarantine ends on December 25); outdoor visitation may resume on December 26, 2020
- 1-400
- Pathway
- 2-400 including the vent unit

Cristina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist is coordinating our plans for COVID-19 vaccination of residents, staff and Essential Caregivers who consent to the administration of the vaccine. We have received **tentative** vaccination clinic dates for the first administration of the vaccines on January 3, January 8 and January 9, 2021 and for the second administration on January 24, January 29 and January 30, 2021. 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. At this point in time, outdoor visitation may occur for residents on units 1-200, 2-200, 3-200, 2-300 and 3-400, and 1-300 (effective December 26, 2020). Please be reminded that NJ has restrictions in place for those who travel from other states. Visitors from these states may not visit unless the person has completed the required quarantine period. You may also request an Essential Caregiver application from Mr. Perez for this type of future visit.

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.

Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa to our residents, their families and our staff who are celebrating the holidays.

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