



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, December 5, 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 December 5, 2020, we continued the required antigen testing of staff and all who enter our Home in accordance with the NJ Department of Health's "Long-term Care Testing Regimen Pilot Program". Antigen testing will continue every other day through December 14, 2020. In addition, staff who have not been tested within 48 hr. will be tested on the first day they return to work. The increased frequency of testing is intended for the timely detection of staff or others who may be COVID+, especially since the COVID-19 Activity Level reported by the State of New Jersey for the week ending November 28, 2020 is high throughout the entire state. 256 staff and 6 non-staff were tested on December 5. All results were negative.

Since the last Update, three staff have tested positive: one Environmental Services Worker, one C NA who has not been in Preakness since November 22, 2020 and one support staff. Staff who test positive are excluded from work until medically cleared to return. Passaic County's policy for medical clearance includes a quarantine of at least 14 days and two negative COVID test results.

Residents continue to be tested weekly. 34 results from the testing on December 1 through December 3, 2020 are pending. One positive result was received for a resident who tested negative in the hospital, was admitted on December 1 and was tested on December 2, 2020.

We continue to be in an Outbreak that began on September 8, 2020. During this Outbreak, four residents have tested positive: one in September, one in October, one in November and one in December. 31 staff have tested positive: three in September, three in October, twenty in November and five in December.

Our quarantine status is as follows. *Please note:* Essential caregiver visitation is suspended on all units due to the "facility-onset" positive COVID-19 status of a resident on November 25.

- 1-200 resident unit: Outdoor visitation is suspended until 12/14.
- 1-300 resident unit: Outdoor visitation is suspended only for the specific residents who were placed on transmission-based precautions until 12/9.
- 1-400: Outdoor visitation is suspended until 12/9.
- 2-400 resident unit excluding the vent unit: Outdoor visitation is suspended until 12/9.
- 3-400 resident unit: Outdoor visitation is suspended until 12/9.

This week we said goodbye to our 81 year old resident who lived on resident unit 1-400 who was admitted in November 2012. Her life experiences included being a race car driver in her younger days. It is said that healthcare is a small world. Staff were surprised to meet their former school gym teacher, her daughter, when she came to visit her mother. We have shared many holidays and events with the family and offer our condolences to her family and co-residents and thank our staff who have compassionately taken care of our resident.

New Jersey is working with the Federal Government toward the administration of COVID-19 vaccines. Consent must be obtained from a resident or the resident's designated representative before the vaccine may be administered. Staff must also provide consent. On December 7, 2020, I will listen to an informational webinar for long-term care facilities and share the information with you in a future Update.

On December 4, 2020, the NJ Department of Health announced the recipients of the second annual NJ Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Award that recognizes facilities that have developed, implemented and maintained high standards for antimicrobial stewardship. With proud thanks to our team of Ann Lin Thornton, Diane Weil, Hardeep Singh, Damian Dymka, Gordana Anevski, Marietta Codilla, Luis Estorque and Philippine Ngioma led by Christina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist under the direction of Magda Eraiba, MD, Medical Director, and our staff, we were awarded a Bronze Steward Award for 2020.

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.

If you have questions related to Infection Prevention, please call Cristina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist at 973-585-2181.

Please call 973-585-2145 to speak with Lisandro Perez, Jr to schedule an outdoor visit. Outdoor visits are weather-permitting. As written in this Update, outdoor visitation is in accordance with quarantine and transmission-based precautions.

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