



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, July 6, 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.

We are now at the four month mark since we began to meet the challenges of the Pandemic. We are encouraged that sixty-nine residents who were positive have tested negative at least two times for the discontinuation of the transmission-based precautions and for their return to their former resident units or to remain on their unit as a non-COVID+ cohort unit. We resumed new admissions and will admit new residents to the 2-400 "C" section of the unit as the observation unit for a period of 14 days. Our residents who are not COVID+ who return from hospitalizations also reside on this unit for 14 days. Last week, we admitted two new residents.

The loss of our residents whether from the Pandemic if the resident has ever tested positive or from non-COVID related causes continues to be very difficult. We sadly said goodbye to two residents since the last Update, one who was affected by COVID-19. One former resident has lived with us since September 2017 when he first was admitted to our ventilator-dependent unit and was weaned from the ventilator to a tracheostomy. Our second resident came to live with us in August 2019. We offer our condolences to their families, friends, and co-residents and to our staff who have taken care of our residents for many years.

Last week, we received our U.S. Census forms and our residents began participating in the U.S. Census count. Residents who need assistance with the completion of the form are assisted by their social workers. Our deadline to complete the process is July 9.

On Thursday, July 2, we resumed outdoor visitation and with the exception of this afternoon during the rainstorm, have enjoyed beautiful summer weather. Residents on all units may have outdoor visitors except those who are COVID +, residents who are on the 2-400 Observation section of the unit and residents on the 3-400 resident unit which is now on Quarantine due to one staff member testing positive during the staff testing for the week of July 1/July2. It is anticipated that the Quarantine on 3-400 will be lifted on July 17, 2020.

Visitation by appointment is scheduled daily, weather permitting, as follows, under the supervision of staff who will wear an N-95 mask.

- 1:30 pm to 2:15 pm
- 2:30 pm to 3:15 pm

- 3:30 to 4:15 pm
- 4:30 to 5:15 pm

Appointments may be requested by calling 973-585-2132 or by email to lcorrado@passaiccountynj.org. The phone messages are checked when staff are not in the office. As reminders, as per the NJ DOH Directive, visitors may not use facility restrooms nor may visitors or residents smoke or eat during the visit. Water may be brought in but may not be shared. Packages must be left at the Security desk for delivery after the visit. Social distancing must be practiced during the visit and masks must be worn by staff, residents and visitors. The Outdoor Visitation Policy may be obtained from the Passaic County website, www.passaiccountynj.org, under Preakness Healthcare Center or you may request a copy from me.

Since the last Update, there have not been any new positive or presumptive positive test results for residents in the weekly testing. The following is the cumulative update for our current census of 290 residents and staff:

- Since March 25, we have had one hundred thirteen residents test positive for COVID-19. The cumulative total includes sixty-nine residents who have ever tested positive and have twice tested negative, twenty-eight residents who have ever tested positive and passed away and one resident who passed away who was presumed positive. Fifteen residents are currently positive. Five residents are hospitalized. Two of the hospitalized residents are expected to return this evening.
- One hundred fourteen staff have tested positive. Ninety-seven staff have returned to work.

As busy as we have been during the Pandemic, Daniel Nasulme our Assistant Director of Nursing found the time to complete the nursing degree he was pursuing. Daniel Nasulme has worked at Preakness since 2000 and is known to many families and to all residents. We now have a member of the Class of COVID-19 as the graduates have come to be known among us!

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