



# Preakness Healthcare Center

## A Legacy of Caring since 1929

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Update, October 30, 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.

After receiving clarification on restrictions for indoor Essential Caregiver visitation when there is a new facility-onset COVID-19 case, all families that were previously approved as Essential Caregivers were called to resume Essential Caregiver visits. A new facility-onset COVID-19 case only refers to long-term residents with a confirmed diagnosis more than 14 days after admission for a non-COVID condition. Dr. Geoffrey Mugalu, Assistant Executive Director is continuing to review Essential Caregiver applications to incorporate how an Essential Caregiver may participate in the care of a resident. Feel free to call him at 973-585-2113 with any questions. As is required in many businesses, we must specify indoor capacity. We are able to schedule eight Essential Caregivers per day. Please be reminded that an Essential Caregiver visit may not be a social visit. At this point in time, Essential Caregiver visits are limited to once/week for a maximum of two hours. *For the safety of our residents, we urge you to be tested for COVID before your Essential Caregiver visit.* As reported by the NJ Department of Health for the week ending October 24, 2020, the entire State is in the “yellow” zone for moderate COVID-19 activity.

When the last Update was written, results were pending for five staff who were tested on October 22 and 23, 2020. The results were received and were negative. 362 staff were tested on October 21 and October 22, 2020. 357 results were received as of the time of this writing. All results received were negative except for one support staff who tested positive.

Resident test results have been received for tests done through October 26, 2020. All results received were negative. 83 results from testing on October 27 through October 29 are pending.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established a Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term care facilities to provide on-site COVID-19 vaccinations at no cost and we enrolled in the Program. Nursing homes are a priority to receive the vaccinations that will be voluntary. We will share the information with you when received.

As we approach the holiday season, we are waiting for direction from the NJ Department of Health for families who may wish to bring a family member home for a holiday. When we receive the information, we will share it with you.

One of our residents from unit 3-200 passed away this week. She was 92 years old and came to Preakness in January 2013. She enjoyed listening to music and when she was able, attending gatherings with co-residents. We offer our condolences to her family and co-residents and thank our staff who have compassionately taken care of our resident.

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.

Please call 973-585-2145 to speak with Lisandro Perez, Jr to schedule an outdoor visit or if your role as an Essential Caregiver has been approved, to schedule an indoor Caregiver visit. Outdoor visits are weather-permitting. Please be reminded that social distancing of six or more feet and the wearing of PPE is required during visits.

Virtual visits may be arranged by calling Alina Zalenski, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at 973-585-2124. If there is a request for hair salon services, you may direct the request to Ms. Zalenski.

Food for delivery to residents is accepted between the hours of 11 am to 1 pm in containers that can be sanitized that will not affect the integrity of the food within. Beverages in sealed bottles or cartons are accepted. Beverages in take-out type cups are not accepted.

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](http://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