



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, October 5, 2021

Celebrating Hispanic and Italian Heritage Months

Please Note: This Update is posted on the Passaic County website and 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 test result for one resident who was tested on September 28, 2021. Our resident lives on resident unit 2-200 and is fully-vaccinated. Our resident who tested positive was transferred to resident unit 2-400 "C", our positive cohort unit. This positive result was the final result that was pending from the resident tests last week. Residents who were exposed to our resident were placed on transmission-based precautions and were tested today with antigen tests. Results were negative. Nursing staff will inform the residents and/or their designated representatives. Staff who were exposed to our resident will also be tested with antigen tests.

Compassionate or end of life visits may be offered and scheduled. Visitors to residents who are on transmission-based precautions will be provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment that must be worn during the visit. Residents on transmission-based precautions may not have outdoor visits. Compassionate indoor visits may be scheduled at 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm and 4 pm. Compassionate outdoor visits may be scheduled at 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm or 4:30 pm. If you have special needs, please let us know. Please call 973-585-2145 to schedule compassionate or end of life visits.

In response to family inquiries regarding staff COVID-19 vaccination mandates in nursing facilities, New Jersey's mandate allows staff the option to be tested in lieu of mandatory vaccination. The frequency of testing is now determined by the "County COVID-19 Level of Community Transmission" as published on the CDC COVID-19 Integrated County View (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>). Based on the rate published for the seven day period that ended on October 4, 2021, the Passaic County rate is "high" and unvaccinated staff will be tested twice/week until the rate decreases. We currently have 413 fully vaccinated staff and eight partially vaccinated staff from our 500 staff. 259 residents are fully vaccinated and four are partially vaccinated from our census of 277 residents.

On Thursday, October 7, 2021 we will have a vaccination clinic for residents or staff who wish to receive a first or second COVID-19 vaccine, a third dose (Moderna, in accordance with the criteria) or a booster vaccine (Pfizer). Tina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist and Nursing Supervisors Damian Dymka and Mark delos Santos are continuing to provide education and to obtain written consent from the residents and/or designated representatives. Vaccination questions or messages may be left on the phone number dedicated to COVID-19 vaccination: 973-585-2100. Consent forms are available at the entrance Security desk or will be mailed or sent via email to designated representatives. Signed consent forms may be returned into the box at the entrance Security desk, by mail or email. Additional vaccine clinic dates will be scheduled throughout October 2021. **Vaccinations will not be provided without written**

consent.

We will be celebrating Oktoberfest on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 with a special German meal.

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 or Daniel Nasulme, Director of Nursing may be reached at 973-585-1409 to address any concerns.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff, their sacrifices 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