



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, October 9, 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.

On October 9, 2021, a nurse who works on resident unit 1-400 who was not vaccinated informed us of a positive COVID test result from an off-site test. Residents on 1-400 were tested on Friday with antigen tests and all results were negative. With the exception of one resident, all residents who were exposed to the nurse are vaccinated. Nursing staff will inform the residents' designated representatives of the exposure. Our resident who is not vaccinated was placed on transmission-based precautions.

Due to the delay in receiving results from the laboratory that processes the nasopharyngeal tests used for residents, we are now using antigen tests for all residents except residents with a tracheostomy or who are ventilator-dependent. Antigen test results are available fifteen minutes after the test. Residents will be tested again on October 11 through October 13, 2021. Staff will be tested with antigen tests during the week of October 11, 2021. The test frequency for staff is dependent upon staff vaccination status.

We must continue to suspend general indoor and general outdoor visitation while we are in outbreak status and continue to test residents and staff. 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.

On Thursday, October 7, 2021 we conducted a COVID vaccination clinic. Thirty-eight residents, forty staff and four family members received a Pfizer booster vaccine. Our next vaccination clinic is on Friday, October 15, 2021 from 11 am to 4 pm. 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 by email. Additional vaccine clinic dates will be scheduled throughout October 2021. **Vaccinations will not be provided without written consent.**

Flu vaccination for residents and staff will begin on October 18, 2021. Consent is required.

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, LNHA, Assistant Executive Director may be reached at 973-585-2113 or Daniel Nasulme, RN, BSN, 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