



# Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

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Update, September 24, 2021

## ***Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month***

***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.

While continuing the required testing of residents and staff while we are in Outbreak status, one C NA who worked on resident unit 1-200 who was not vaccinated tested positive. Residents who were exposed were vaccinated. Nursing staff informed our residents and their designated representatives. On September 24, 2021, one member of our Business Office staff who was vaccinated tested positive. Due to the positive results, we must continue to suspend general indoor and outdoor visitation while we conduct additional testing of residents and staff. Residents were tested on September 20, 21, 22, 2021. Results are pending. Staff were tested on September 22, 2021 and will be tested again on September 29, 2021. Residents will be tested on September 27, 28, 29, 2021.

*Compassionate or end of life visits* may be offered and scheduled. If you prefer that the compassionate visit occurs outdoors, please include this in the message when you call to schedule the visit. 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.

We are awaiting direction from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and the NJ Department of Health regarding the regulatory requirements for mandatory COVID vaccination of staff. The current NJ Department of Health directive for mandatory staff vaccination includes the option to test weekly in lieu of mandatory vaccination. To date, 409 of our approximately 500 staff are fully vaccinated; nine are partially vaccinated.

CDC and NJ Department of Health guidance includes that moderately to severely immunocompromised residents should receive a third dose of vaccine. Criteria include residents receiving active cancer treatment, residents with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency, advanced or untreated HIV infection, treatment with high dose corticosteroids. Nursing Supervisors Damian Dymka and Mark delos Santos will provide education and obtain written consent from the residents and/or designated representatives before a third vaccine is administered. Vaccination messages may be left on the phone number dedicated to *vaccination: 973-585-2100*. Anticipated vaccination date for the third dose is October 7, 2021.

The Pfizer vaccine was approved for emergency use as a booster for those who are 65 years or older or at high risk of COVID-19. The NJ Department of Health will issue directives once the CDC and the ACIP

(Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) provide guidance. When the directive is issued, nursing supervisors will provide education and obtain written consent from the residents and/or designated representatives for the booster vaccine before a booster vaccine is administered.

During the week of September 27, 2021, the entrance canopy of our Home will be painted. At times, visitors will be directed to enter through the patio. Please follow the signs and the directions of Security staff.

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, Acting 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