



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, September 30, 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.

We are very pleased to announce the promotion of Daniel Nasulme, RN, BSN to Director of Nursing and Aleyamma John, RN, BSN to Assistant Director of Nursing! Daniel Nasulme has been a part of our team since August 2000 when he began employment as a staff nurse. During his Preakness career, he was promoted to Assistant Nursing Supervisor and to Assistant Director of Nursing. Aleyamma John joined our team in 1996. She also began her employment as a staff nurse, was promoted to Assistant Nursing Supervisor and to Coordinator of our clinical documentation. Mr. Nasulme and Ms. John are “hands-on” leaders who are committed to meet the needs of our residents. Feel free to call Mr. Nasulme (973-585-1409) or Ms. John (973-585-5911) with any questions or concerns.

The NJ Department of Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli issued the following statement regarding the CDC Approval of Pfizer Booster Doses: The action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides for the administration of booster doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after completion of the primary series to help increase protection as follows.

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot;
- People age 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions should receive a booster shot;
- People age 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions may receive a booster shot, based on their individual benefits and risks, and
- People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional settings, including healthcare workers, may receive a booster shot, based on their individual benefits and risks.

Nursing facilities were directed to begin administering booster doses to eligible individuals. Tina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist and Nursing Supervisors Damian Dymka and Mark delos Santos will provide education and obtain written consent from the residents and/or designated representatives before a booster vaccine is administered. 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 or by mail or email. The first date to begin the administration of the booster dose is October 7, 2021 for residents or staff who have provide written consent. Staff or residents who wish to receive a first or second COVID-19 vaccine may also receive the vaccine on October 7, 2021. Additional vaccine clinic dates will be scheduled throughout October 2021. **Vaccinations will not be provided without written consent.**

We are continuing the required testing of residents and staff while we are in Outbreak status. Residents were tested on September 27, 28 and 29, 2021. To date, there have not been additional positive results since the positive result received on September 24, 2021. 150 results are pending. Staff were tested on September 29, 2021. All results were negative.

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 still waiting for 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.

The work to paint our entrance canopy began on September 30, 2021 and will continue during the week of October 4, 2021. At times, visitors and staff will be directed to enter through the visitor 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