



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, November 10, 2021

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.

Update on Outbreak Status

We are pleased to inform you that as of November 9, 2021, we are no longer in outbreak status. The last COVID positive result was on October 9, 2021 for a staff member. Testing at this point in time is required twice/week for staff who are not vaccinated. Residents who are not symptomatic are not tested. New residents must have a negative test result prior to admission, are tested upon admission and are admitted to the observation unit for 14 days.

With the end of Outbreak status, visitation hours for residents who are not on transmission-based precautions are **8 am to 8 pm**. These visits do not need to be scheduled. Two visitors at a time, ages two or older, may visit and all protocols for infection prevention that include screening questions upon arrival, completion of a consent form and the wearing of a mask must be followed. Visits may take place in a resident's room with the permission of a roommate, in the following areas if not in use by residents: activity rooms, sitting rooms, game room or library, or outdoors on the patio that is directly behind the main entrance. If you need assistance to transport a resident to the patio for an outdoor visit or if you have special needs, please call 973-585-2145 to arrange for staff assistance.

Residents who are on transmission-based precautions on the observation unit on 2-400 or who are on transmission-based precautions on any other resident unit may schedule compassionate or end of life visits at 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm or 4 pm. PPE will be provided to you. If you have special needs, please let us know. Please call 973-585-2145 to schedule the visits.

We are continuing to offer COVID vaccination clinics on-site for residents and staff for first, second or booster doses. Residents and/or their designated representatives who have provided written consent will receive the vaccines. Our next clinic dates are November 12 and November 19, 2021. Vaccination questions or messages may be left on the phone number dedicated to COVID-19 vaccination: **973-585-2100**. To date:

- 258 residents of a census of 279 residents are fully vaccinated; two are partially vaccinated. 107 residents have received a Pfizer booster.
- Of our 500 staff (employed and contract), 420 staff are fully vaccinated. 108 staff have received a Pfizer booster.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have directed that all staff must have a first COVID vaccine dose or one-dose vaccine by December 6, 2021 and received all shots for full vaccination by

January 4, 2022. The regulation does not include a testing option in lieu of vaccination. It does allow for recognized medical conditions for which vaccines are contraindicated and religious exemptions in accordance with applicable federal law.

We are extremely saddened by the recent passing of our Nursing Supervisor Damian Dymka. Fr. Jim Moss will offer a prayer service on November 18, 2021 at 2 pm in our main dining room. Families are welcome to join staff and residents during this time of remembrance and prayer.

Due to the uncertainties surrounding COVID protocols, we cannot schedule family dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We look forward to resuming our family dinners in 2022.

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, 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. And, special thanks for the understanding from our residents and their families as the regulatory directives and protocols for COVID continue to evolve.
Preakness Strong Heroes Continue to Work Here!

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA
Executive Director