



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, November 15, 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 Visitation

On November 12, 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued Memorandum QSO-20-39 of new guidance for visitation during the public health emergency. Visitation is now allowed for all residents at all times without restricting the number of visits, the length of the visit, the frequency of the visits or the requirement to schedule visits. All infection prevention protocols must be followed. Visitors who are positive or exhibiting signs of COVID are restricted from visiting. Protocols upon entry to Preakness must include the temperature check, hand hygiene, wearing of mask, and name/phone number of visitor. 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, library, or outdoors on the patios. In accordance with the guidance, if a resident's roommate is unvaccinated or immunocompromised, regardless of vaccination status, the visit should not occur in the room unless the resident being visited has a clinical condition that prevents them from leaving the room for visits. Visitors are expected to go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area. Visitors may not participate in resident activities. If you need assistance with visitation, please speak with the resident's social worker or feel free to call Dr. Geoffrey Mugalu, LNHA, Assistant Executive Director or me.

While CMS recommends that residents who are on transmission-based precautions or quarantine not have visitors, residents who are on transmission-based precautions or quarantine are permitted to have visitors in the resident's room following infection prevention protocols.

CMS included in the guidance that large gatherings where many visitors are in the same space at the same time should be avoided. Consistent with this guidance, we will not be able to celebrate the holidays this year with our family dinners. We have received requests to reserve resident activity spaces for private family dinner celebrations on Thanksgiving. Since this would take away from the spaces available for general visits and resident activities, we cannot accommodate these requests.

Residents may leave Preakness on pass and are expected to follow all recommended infection prevention practices. Upon return, the resident must be screened and may need to be tested or quarantined depending on assessment of the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and/or vaccination status. Please direct any questions to Tina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist, 973-585-2181.

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 date is on November 19, 2021. Vaccination questions or messages

may be left on the phone number dedicated to COVID-19 vaccination: 973-585-2100. To date:

- 255 residents of a census of 276 residents are fully vaccinated; two are partially vaccinated. 126 residents have received a Pfizer booster.
- Of our 500 staff (employed and contract), 420 staff are fully vaccinated. 109 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 receive 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.

On November 17 and November 18, 2021, a project to replace our electrical transformers with energy-efficient transformers will begin. On November 17, 2021, the transformers will be replaced on resident unit 3-200 followed by resident unit 2-200 and the 2nd floor administrative spaces. On November 18, 2021, the transformers will be replaced on resident unit 1-200, followed by the 1st floor main street area including the rotunda area. It is anticipated that the work will be completed in each area within two to three hours with minimal disruption. Resident equipment such as beds, concentrators, feeding pumps will be plugged into the red emergency outlets before the work begins. Resident TVs will not be operational. Present on the units during the work will be our Facilities Director, Safety Coordinator and a Nursing Supervisor to address any issues.

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. 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