



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, December 3, 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.

As you may know from news reports, on November 30, 2021, a Federal judge in Louisiana granted a nationwide preliminary injunction to stop the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service's vaccine mandate for healthcare workers, noting the case will be heard in a higher court. Therefore, at this moment in time, there are not Federal requirements for healthcare workers to be vaccinated. New Jersey's current mandate allows staff to continue to be tested until vaccinated. Nevertheless, we encourage staff to be vaccinated. As has been the case throughout the Pandemic, protocols and requirements continue to evolve. As of November 30, 2021, this is the current information on mandatory vaccination for healthcare workers by the Federal government. Unvaccinated staff are tested twice/week.

Since the last Update on November 29, 2021, we have not had any additional positive cases of COVID. The confirmatory test for the one staff who tested positive on November 29, 2021 was positive. Residents on the 2-400 unit who were exposed to our staff member were tested on November 29, 2021 and the results were negative. The tests for residents will be repeated on December 6, 2021 and December 13, 2021.

Our next on-site COVID-19 Vaccination clinic will be on Friday , December 10, 2021. Pfizer, Moderna, Jansen (J&J) vaccinations are available for residents and staff for first, second or booster doses. Residents and/or their designated representatives who have provided written consent or verbal consent that is witnessed by two nursing management staff will receive the vaccines. Vaccination questions or messages may be left on the phone number dedicated to COVID-19 vaccination: 973-585-2100 or may be directed to Tina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist (973-585-2181). To date, 257 residents are vaccinated; 159 have received a booster dose. 424 staff are vaccinated; 141 have received a booster dose. 68 staff are not vaccinated.

If you plan to decorate a resident's room, please review the safety requirements prepared by Frank Irizarry, Coordinator of Safety. The requirements are available at the main entrance desk or you may call Mr. Irizarry at 973-585-2117 with any questions.

We are thankful for the support we receive from so many families and friends. Thank you to Paulette DeMauro for the festive "candy cane" and floral decorations she made for us.

Peggy Ramos has been a Recreation Therapy Aide on our Pathway behavior management unit for many years. Congratulations to Ms. Ramos on her promotion to a clerical position that will support the Staff Development, Infection Prevention and Quality Improvement Departments!

Ken Urgo, Director of Dietary has announced that after twenty years of service he will retire on December

31, 2021. We wish him enjoyment, health and happiness in this next phase of life.

The Pandemic has affected the American workforce. We currently have job opportunities for Nursing Supervisory positions, Social Services, Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants and Food Services Workers. Please feel free to provide my contact information to healthcare workers looking for a very rewarding career as a member of our team.

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