



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, December 20, 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.

During the Outbreak that began on November 29, 2021 through today, seven staff have tested positive. Four of the staff tested positive since the last Update.

- On December 17, 2021, one staff who is fully vaccinated from our Admissions Office tested positive off-site. By the nature of her work, she did not have contact with residents.
- On December 18, 2021, our C NA who works on 1-400 and is fully-vaccinated was tested off-site and was notified of the positive result today. All residents on the 1-400 unit who did not refuse testing were tested with antigen tests today and the results were negative. Residents will be tested again on December 27, 2021. Residents who received care from our C NA were placed on transmission-based precautions.
- During the testing of unvaccinated staff today, one Food Services Worker who is not vaccinated tested positive. Staff who worked with our Food Services Worker were tested. One additional Food Services Worker who is fully-vaccinated tested positive.

We are continuing to offer COVID vaccinations for residents and staff for first, second or booster doses. Residents for whom consent was received were vaccinated on December 16, 2021. On December 20, 2021 vaccinations were offered for staff. Vaccination questions or messages may be left on the phone number dedicated to COVID-19 vaccination: 973-585-2100. Our next COVID vaccination clinics for residents and staff will be on December 29, 2021. To date,

- Residents (census of 280 residents): 257 residents are fully vaccinated; four are partially vaccinated; 203 have received a booster.
- Staff (498 employed and regularly scheduled contract staff): 429 are fully vaccinated; four are partially vaccinated; 161 have received a booster.

On December 15, 2021, a Federal Appeals court in New Orleans reversed the nationwide injunction against the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for healthcare workers. We are waiting for direction regarding the regulatory requirements of the mandate and the deadlines for all staff to be vaccinated with the COVID vaccine. Sixty-five staff are not vaccinated.

New Jersey has a mandate for all staff in a health care facility to receive an influenza vaccine by December 31, 2021 unless the staff has a medical exemption that meets the requirements identified by the NJ Department of Health.

On December 23, 2021, weather-permitting, from 5 pm to 6 pm, Salomone Brothers will bring their holiday decorated trucks to wish our residents Merry Christmas. The trucks will travel throughout our parking lots so that residents will be able to view the trucks through our windows.

Vincent Latona, Food Services Supervisor on the evening shift has announced that after twenty-five 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 Supervisors, Social Workers, Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants, Recreation Therapy Aides and Food Services Workers. 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