



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, December 27, 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.

This Update is written to share with you the results of testing today of unvaccinated staff, testing of staff who worked with staff who tested positive, testing of residents who were exposed to staff who tested positive, as well as staff who tested off-site. During the Outbreak that began on November 29, 2021 through December 27, 2021, two residents and thirty one staff have tested positive. Since the last Update on December 25, 2021,

- On December 27, 2021, during the testing of residents previously exposed to staff who tested positive, one resident who lives on resident unit 1-400 and who is fully vaccinated including with a booster dose tested positive. In addition, one resident who lives on resident unit 1-400 and who is not vaccinated tested positive. Our two residents were transferred to the 2-400 “C” section of the unit, our positive cohort unit.
- On December 27, 2021, eleven staff either tested positive during our testing of staff or notified us of test results conducted off-site.
 - Five staff from the Nursing Department: one clinic attendant who is fully vaccinated; one C NA who worked on resident unit 1-200 and is not vaccinated; one nurse who worked on the ventilator unit and is vaccinated, one nurse who worked on the Pathway behavior unit and resident unit 3-400 who is not vaccinated and one nursing supervisor who is vaccinated.
 - Two staff from Therapeutic Recreation; one is vaccinated.
 - Four Dietary staff; three are vaccinated including one with a booster dose.

Due to holiday schedules, several staff have not had resident contact during the holiday weekend. Our Director of Nursing and Infection Preventionist have contact-traced the exposure of residents by staff who tested positive and reviewed with our Medical Director to establish testing timeframes and transmission-based precautions. Nursing staff are in the process of contacting the designated representatives for residents who were exposed to the staff within a 48-hour timeframe. Daniel Nasulme, Director of Nursing (973-585-1409) or Tina Hucalla, Infection Preventionist (973-585-2181) may be called to discuss specific circumstances.

We are continuing to offer COVID vaccinations for residents and staff for first, second or booster doses. 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. *We encourage all residents, staff and visitors to be vaccinated and receive a booster dose if eligible.* Unvaccinated staff are tested twice/week. We can also offer antigen testing to visitors who wish to be tested.

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. To date, 313 of our 498 staff are vaccinated.

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!***

We wish our residents, families and friends a Happy Kwanza and Healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA
Executive Director