



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, December 23, 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 that additional positive test results were received for staff. During the Outbreak that began on November 29, 2021 through December 22, 2021, nineteen staff have tested positive. Nine of the staff tested positive since the last Update.

- One Building Maintenance Worker (“Housekeeping”) who works on our 1-300 resident unit who is not vaccinated.
- One nurse and one C NA who work on our 1-400 resident unit and who are not vaccinated.
- One of our Buildings and Grounds staff who is vaccinated.
- Two Food Services Workers: one of the two staff was vaccinated.
- One Security Guard who is vaccinated.
- One C NA who works on our 2-300 resident unit and was vaccinated including with a booster.
- One C NA who works on our vent unit and was vaccinated including with a booster. *Note:* She has not been inside Preakness since she began vacation on December 8, 2021.

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. Residents and staff exposed to our staff who have tested positive are tested twice during a fourteen day period following exposure. 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.

This evening, Salomone Brothers brought their spectacular holiday decorated trucks to wish our residents Merry Christmas. Several residents who went outside to view the trucks enjoyed the “snow” from the trucks. A huge thanks you to the Salomone Brothers for the joy brought to our residents and staff!

Santa arrived this morning with gifts for all. Santa had a special elf this year --- Tracy Palma, wife of Joseph Palma, Network Support Specialist (Information Technology). Mrs. Palma made creative ornaments for each resident. Seeing the details on the ornaments, we can only imagine how many hours she spent creating the ornaments for our residents. Many thanks to Mrs. Palma!!

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 Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza and Healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA
Executive Director