



# Preakness Healthcare Center

## A Legacy of Caring since 1929

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Update, December 25, 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 a positive test result was received for a Dietitian on December 24, 2021. During the Outbreak that began on November 29, 2021 through December 25, 2021, twenty staff have tested positive.

On the evening of December 23, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control released revisions to their Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel (HCP) Staffing Shortages incorporating new guidance for HCP who have received “boosters” and adjusting guidance for Return to Work in preparation for Omicron variant. We will review our policies in light of the new guidance and advise of any revisions.

In addition, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a Frequently Asked Questions document on nursing home visitation that include the following clarifications.

- There may be times when it is appropriate to restrict visitation, such as during a significant outbreak. At this point in time, Preakness Healthcare Center will not restrict visitation. However, we do ask that you limit visitors to two at a time for each resident.
- Visitors may remove masks during a visit in a private space, though this is not recommended.
- Visitors and residents may have physical contact, though it is not recommended.
- Visitors may share a meal with residents, even in a communal dining room, though a private dining space is preferred. At this point in time, since we are in Outbreak and for the safety of our residents, visitors may request a space that is not in use by other residents for dining or may eat within a resident’s room if there is not a roommate.
- Above all, adhere to the core principles of infection prevention and control including source control, physical distancing, and hand hygiene.

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.

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