



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, January 1, 2022

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.

With hopes that this new year will bring an end to the effects of COVID-19 on all of our lives, we wish you a healthy 2022!

Each Update I write ends with a thank you to our staff for their work and sacrifices during the many months of the Pandemic. This Update begins with **extreme gratitude to our staff**, especially as we face the impact of the Omnicron variant and the challenges it has created. The cooperation and teamwork of our staff has been outstanding! Many staff are working additional shifts or assisting other departments to meet the needs of our residents and continue our legacy of caring that began in 1929. We sincerely **thank our residents and their families** for their patience and understanding. We are doing everything possible not to disrupt the routines of our residents and to meet their needs.

During the Outbreak that began on November 29, 2021 through January 1, 2022:

- Three residents tested positive:
 - Two residents are fully vaccinated; one had a booster
 - One resident was hospitalized

- Seventy-nine staff tested positive. The last two positive results were on January 1, 2022.
 - Sixty-one staff who tested positive are fully vaccinated
 - Twenty-eight staff were vaccinated with Jansen (“J&J”) vaccines
 - One staff is partially vaccinated
 - Twelve staff had a booster
 - Fourteen staff have returned to work or are cleared to return on January 3, 2021

Preliminary analysis of staff who tested positive include:

- Nurses/Nursing management: 12
- C NAs and related staff: 25
- Dietary staff: 18
- Security: 4
- Social Services: 3
- Therapeutic Recreation: 4
- Environmental Services: 7
- Admissions: 1
- Buildings and Grounds: 3
- Respiratory Therapy: 2

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 continue to contact 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 will schedule COVID vaccinations for residents and staff for first, second or booster doses during the week of January 2, 2022. Please note that in order to not waste doses of the vaccines, we will schedule the dates as we have enough residents and/or staff who wish to be vaccinated to use a full vial of the vaccine. Vaccination questions or messages may be left on the phone number dedicated to COVID-19 vaccination: **973-585-2100**. *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.

We will celebrate Kwanza with a special lunch on January 6, 2022.

Please join me in congratulating Liza Imperial, RN, BSN on her promotion to Assistant Nursing Supervisor for the evening shift and Joseph Mularkey on his promotion to Interim Director of Dietary.

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 New Year!

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA
Executive Director