



# Preakness Healthcare Center

## A Legacy of Caring since 1929

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Update, January 17, 2022

Honoring the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

*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.

On Sunday, January 16, 2022, we thanked and said goodbye to the National Guard team that assisted us during the week of January 10, 2022. They provided much needed support by feeding residents, assisting CNAs with care and transfers and engaging with our residents through socialization and activities. All but one of the team members had never worked in a nursing facility before coming to our Home. We hope their experiences with us were a positive introduction to life in nursing facilities.

The following is an Update as of January 17, 2022 of the Outbreak that began on November 29, 2021:

- Fifty-six residents tested positive. The last positive results were on January 17, 2022.
  - Fifty-three residents are fully vaccinated; forty-two received a booster.
  - Five residents have been hospitalized.
  - Sixteen residents completed the transmission-based precautions and returned to their units.
  - One resident passed away.
  
- One-hundred forty-two staff tested positive. The last positive results were on January 17, 2022.
  - One hundred-twelve staff who tested positive are fully vaccinated; twenty-eight received a booster.
  - Two staff are partially vaccinated.
  - One hundred staff were cleared to return to work.
  
- Six visitors tested positive.

Our Director of Nursing and Infection Preventionist contact-trace the exposure of residents by staff who test positive and review 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 or resident 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. Residents who test positive reside on resident unit 2-400 "C and D" during the quarantine period.

At this point in time and until further notice, we request that visitors be limited to **two** visitors at one time for each resident and that visits occur during the hours of **8 am to 8 pm**. If there are circumstances for which this is a hardship, please contact Alina Zalenski, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at 973-585-

2124 and we will try to accommodate your request. Antigen testing is available for visitors who wish to be tested.

On January 13, 2022, the US Supreme Court upheld the CMS mandate for staff in CMS-regulated healthcare settings to be vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccinations. All staff, regardless of clinical responsibility or resident contact, must receive the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine dose by **January 29, 2022** and must be fully vaccinated by February 28, 2022 unless an exemption is granted based on recognized medical conditions or sincere religious beliefs consistent with federal law. "Staff" is defined to include all employees, contract staff, licensed practitioners, students, trainees and volunteers. As of January 17, 2022, fifty-seven staff are not vaccinated. The CMS Mandate does not permit testing in lieu of vaccination.

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, and especially at this point in the Pandemic, 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