



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, February 1, 2022
Celebrating Black History Month and Lunar New Year

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.

The month of February brings many celebrations including “Pride in Foodservice Week” during the first week in February. We are appreciative of our Dietary staff who provide meals for our residents and staff, meals for special events and to the community for “Meals on Wheels” and the congregate nutrition sites. We began our celebration of the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Tiger, with a special luncheon. On February 16, 2022, we will celebrate Black History month with a special luncheon. February 4, 2022, is National Wear Red Day for American Health Month. Residents and Staff are encouraged to wear red attire.

The deadline for all staff in CMS-regulated healthcare settings to be vaccinated with at least the first dose of a two dose COVID vaccine or the single dose of a one dose vaccine was January 27, 2022. To date, with the exception of 36 staff who are on leaves of absence or who have been approved for religious or medical exemptions or who have religious or medical exemption applications pending, all staff have met the CMS mandate for COVID vaccination. For staff who received their first dose, second doses must be completed by February 28, 2022. In addition, in accordance with NJ Executive Directive, staff who are eligible for a COVID booster must receive the booster by February 28, 2022, unless a religious or medical exemption is approved prior to this date.

The following is an Update as of February 1, 2022, of the Outbreak that began on November 29, 2021:

- Sixty-five residents tested positive. The last positive result was on January 26, 2022.
 - Sixty-two residents are fully vaccinated; forty-nine received a booster.
 - Eight residents have been hospitalized.
 - Fifty-seven residents completed the transmission-based precautions and returned to their units.
 - Two residents passed away.

- One-hundred fifty-four staff tested positive. The last positive result was on January 31, 2022.
 - One hundred twenty-four staff who tested positive are fully vaccinated; thirty one received a booster.
 - Two staff were partially vaccinated at the time of the positive test result.
 - One hundred forty-two staff were cleared to return to work.

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, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing (973-585-1409) 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, we can resume visitation without time restrictions or limits on the number of visitors. Visitors who are positive or exhibiting signs/symptoms of COVID may not visit. Please be reminded that visits are to take place within a resident's room with the permission of the roommate. Visits may take place in an activity room or a space such as our game room if not in use by residents. Antigen testing is available for visitors who wish to be tested.

Congratulations to:

- Natalie Cruz, our C NA who achieved LPN licensure
- Mark de los Santos as he begins his new role as our MDS Coordinator

Thank you to Scott Pinto and our Buildings and Grounds staff for their work during the snowstorm this past weekend to plow and shovel our parking lots and walkways. We also thank the Passaic County Roads Department for keeping the roadways to Preakness clear. And, we thank our staff who took care of our residents during the storm.

During February, we will offer COVID vaccination clinics for residents and staff every Wednesday. Vaccines are available for first, second or booster doses for residents and second or booster doses for staff. 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.

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, Daniel Nasulme, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing may be reached at 973-585-1409 or Aleyamma John, RN, BSN, Assistant Director of Nursing may be reached at 862-345-5911 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