



# Preakness Healthcare Center

## A Legacy of Caring since 1929

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Update, January 21, 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.

The following is an Update as of January 21, 2022, of the Outbreak that began on November 29, 2021:

- Sixty-one residents tested positive. The last positive result was on January 21, 2022.
  - Fifty-eight residents are fully vaccinated; forty-six received a booster.
  - Six residents have been hospitalized.
  - Twenty-eight residents completed the transmission-based precautions and returned to their units.
  - One resident passed away.
  
- One-hundred forty-nine staff tested positive. The last positive result was on January 21, 2022.
  - One hundred-eighteen staff who tested positive are fully vaccinated; twenty-nine received a booster.
  - Two staff are partially vaccinated.
  - One hundred-fifteen 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 visits 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. If you prefer to visit in an area that is not a resident room, please speak with Ms. Zalenski and if an activity room or a space such as our game room is not in use by residents, we will try to schedule your visit in these rooms. Antigen testing is available for visitors who wish to be tested.

On January 19, 2022, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order #283 that requires all staff at healthcare facilities to receive a primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine and a booster dose when eligible under the timing requirements. This Directive is in addition to the CMS Mandate that was upheld by the US Supreme Court 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 27, 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 21, 2022, fifty-four staff are not vaccinated. The CMS Mandate and the NJ Directive do not permit testing in lieu of vaccination.

Our next COVID vaccination clinics for residents and staff will be on January 25, 2022, 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**. *We encourage all residents, staff, and visitors to be vaccinated and receive a booster dose if eligible.*

Our Preakness family lost one of our Auxiliary members this week with the passing of Dorothy Link. Many residents for many years have benefitted from the generosity and compassion of Mrs. Link through her volunteer work in the Preakness Hospital Auxiliary. Mrs. Link was an active participant of the Auxiliary and there wasn't any task she would not do for the benefit of our residents. Through the years, she visited with residents, accompanied residents on trips, attended special events and activities to assist residents, wrapped Christmas and Hanukkah presents for our residents, created beautiful "tricky trays" and conducted fund-raising events. We offer our appreciation, thanks and condolences to her daughter, Sharon Link, Director of Social Services, her son and Mrs. Link's extended family and friends.

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