



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, May 10, 2022

Celebrating National Nurses Week and National Skilled Nursing Care Week

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.

Since the last Update, two staff have tested positive for COVID-19. On May 9, 2022, a staff in a management support position tested positive for COVID. Due to the scope of responsibilities, there wasn't resident contact. On May 10, 2022, a CNA who works on resident unit 2-300 tested positive. Residents and staff who were exposed on unit 2-300 will be tested on May 11, 2022 and five to seven days later. Both staff are up to date with vaccination requirements that include booster vaccine doses. We continue to follow all precautionary infection prevention measures and regulatory requirements.

As a reminder, we are offering boosters to residents and staff in accordance with the CDC updated recommendations to allow certain immunocompromised individuals and people over the age of 50 who received an initial booster dose at least four months ago to be eligible for another mRNA booster to increase their protection against severe disease from COVID-19. The CDC recommends that adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least four months ago may receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccines will be offered on-site with the consent of the resident and/or legal representative or designated representative. Vaccine questions or messages may be directed to Patrick Kuiken, Infection Preventionist at 973-585-2185.

National Nurses Week is celebrated from May 6 through May 12, 2022, recognizing "Nurses Exceptional People, Essential Care". Thank you to our nurses who care for our residents each and every day and to Daniel Nasulme, Director of Nursing, Aleyamma John, Assistant Director of Nursing and Suzanne McEvoy, Director of Volunteers and Community Relations for the traveling ice cream truck and scarf hugs for our nurses.

Thank you to our staff who worked on Mother's Day which also was the beginning of National Skilled Nursing Care Week, May 8 through May 14, recognizing "Creative and Nurturing Connections". We appreciate the work of our staff in all departments who create a home for our residents! Feel free to take a "Dot" from the Security staff at the entrance lobby to highlight a Preakness memory, share a compliment or spread kindness and cheer. "Dots" will be displayed in the Rotunda. We will celebrate Skilled Nursing Care Week with a luncheon for staff on May 11, 2022 and with a musical party for our residents featuring "Marilyn Monroe" on May 13, 2022 at 2:30 pm. Following COVID protocols, the musical party is limited to resident participation without visitors present.

On May 25, 2022, our annual Memorial Day Parade will resume after a two-year hiatus due to COVID restrictions. In addition to the Parade, the Passaic County Commissioners will honor our Veterans with a Distinguished Medal Ceremony. Because this event will take place outdoors, visitors may participate with our residents. The parade will begin at 11 am. Rain Date is May 26, 2022. Please call Alina Zalenski, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at 973-585-2124 for additional information.

Congratulations to our resident Nathan L. who celebrated his 100th birthday on May 9, 2022!!

Congratulations to Patrick Kuiken, RN on his promotion to Infection Preventionist. He can be reached at 973-585-2181 to discuss any questions or concerns. We wish Tina Hucalla health and happiness in her retirement and thank her for many years of service.

We currently have job opportunities for Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants, Recreation Therapy Aides, Security Officers, Food Service Workers and a Medical Records Administrator. 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, 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