



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, May 24, 2022

Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and
Memorial Day

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 tested positive with tests performed on May 23, 2022 during the testing that is required for staff who are not up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccine requirements. A CNA who worked on resident unit-2-300 tested positive. The last day of work prior to the test result was May 19, 2022. A Food Services Worker who works without resident contact tested positive. The last day of work prior to the test result was on May 22, 2022. The current outbreak began on April 18, 2022. Eleven staff have tested positive. Ten staff completed the primary series of vaccination; one has an approved exemption. Six of the ten vaccinated staff received boosters. To date, no residents have tested positive. We continue to follow all precautionary infection prevention measures and regulatory requirements.

COVID-19 Vaccines are offered to residents and staff in accordance with current CDC recommendations. Please call Patrick Kuiken, RN, Infection Preventionist at 973-585-2181 for additional information. We have antigen tests available for visitors who wish to be tested prior to visiting. If interested, please inform Security staff when you arrive for the entrance screening.

As we approach Memorial Day, we thank our residents and staff who are Veterans and reflect upon their service to preserve our freedoms. Our residents have served in all branches of the military in World War II, the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam and in the National Guard. Our staff have served in the Army and Air Force in Vietnam and the Army in Iraq. Thank you to our staff and our colleagues from many Passaic County Departments for the assistance to create a tribute to our Veterans who will be honored by the Passaic County Board of County Commissioners with a Distinguished Medals ceremony during our Memorial Day parade on May 25, 2022.

The May issue of the Beacon, published by the Long-term Care Ombudsman, is available on the website, www.ltco.nj.gov. Featured in the Newsletter is the announcement that the Long-term Care Ombudsman now advocates for the rights of adult residents of all ages in long-term care. Prior to this change, the Ombudsman advocated for residents 60 years and older.

On May 26 and May 27, 2022, from 9 pm to 4 am, the work to replace electrical transformers in the basement with energy-efficient transformers will continue. The work has been scheduled during the nighttime hours to minimize disruption.

Welcome to Sandra Merino, Social Worker and to Michael Jordan, Supervisor, Buildings and Grounds/Facilities.

Frank Irizarry is our Safety Coordinator. He can be reached at 973-585-2117 if there are questions regarding items that are appropriate for resident rooms or any safety concerns.

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