



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, July 2, 2022
Celebrating the Fourth of July

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, six staff and three residents tested positive for COVID-19. On June 30, 2022 a nurse tested positive two days after the last date worked. On July 1, 2022, a Recreation Therapy aide from the Pathway Behavior Management unit tested positive after work. On July 2, 2022 while testing residents and staff on the Pathway unit due to the exposure to COVID, three residents, two CNAs and one staff with administrative responsibilities tested positive. The three residents were asymptomatic at the time of the testing and were transferred to the positive cohort unit on 2-400 "C". We will continue the testing of staff and residents on this unit following CDC testing requirements. Also on July 2, 2022, a nurse who worked on resident unit 1-200 tested positive after work. There wasn't close contact between this nurse and residents.

The current outbreak began on April 18, 2022. Twenty-four staff and four residents have tested positive. Twenty of the twenty-four staff completed the primary series of vaccination; four have approved exemptions. Sixteen staff received boosters; one received a second booster. Four of the four residents completed the primary series of vaccination. Three residents received a booster.

Residents who are on the positive cohort unit may have visitors wearing the required personal protective equipment that we provide on the unit.

There are several medications for the treatment of COVID that have emergency use authorization by the FDA with specific criteria for use. The use of these medications if prescribed by a resident's attending physician require that the physician obtain the informed consent of the resident (if the resident makes their own decisions) or the person legally authorized to consent for the resident. The emergency use authorization informed consent process includes that the fact sheet for the medication must be provided to the resident/authorized representative.

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.

Each day, weather-permitting, staff accompany residents who wish to go outdoors on the rotunda patio during the hours of 1:30 to 4:00 pm. The use of the rotunda patio is limited to residents. Residents who wish to visit outdoors with their guests may use the patio that is directly behind the main entrance. This

patio is open during times that it is light outdoors. Three visitor enclosures were installed to provide covered visiting areas.

We learned that we have another resident who is a Veteran and we will honor our resident during July. If there are other residents or staff who are Veterans who have not been honored and wish to be recognized, please let us know!

We have job opportunities for Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants, Recreation Therapy Aides, Security Officers and Food Service Workers. 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. A nursing supervisor is available for emergent issues by calling the nursing supervisor cell phone, 973-617-7496.

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