



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, September 23, 2022
Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

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.

On September 22, 2022, two CNAs tested positive for COVID-19. Our CNAs worked on resident units 2-300, 2-200 and 2-400 with residents with tracheostomies. Residents and staff with whom our CNAs had close contact who were not positive within the last 90 days were tested and will be retested in accordance with regulatory requirements. The current outbreak began on April 18, 2022. Fifty-five staff and twenty-five residents have tested positive. Two staff are currently out of work. We do not have any residents who are positive with COVID-19 at this point in time.

The New Jersey Department of Health created a video recording to encourage consent for the new bivalent booster vaccine. The link to the video is: <https://youtu.be/WgRbAKFWY4s>. According to information provided by the New Jersey Department of Health, the new bivalent vaccine has been formulated to work against both the original COVID virus and the most recent variant, Omicron. The newly updated booster protects from not only the original COVID-19 virus but the Omicron and its subvariants. Vaccines continue to be the safest and most effective protection against COVID-19 and its variants.

We received bivalent booster vaccines this week. Patrick Kuiken, RN, Infection Preventionist and the team of Nursing Supervisors who are assisting him to administer the booster vaccines are contacting the resident/designated representative for the resident for consent to administer to those who are eligible to receive the booster. Mr. Kuiken is also contacting the resident/designated representatives for residents to administer influenza vaccines to residents with the consent of the resident/designated representative for the resident.

New Jersey mandates that staff must have a primary COVID vaccination series and one booster dose. To be considered up to date, the CDC requires completion of a primary series and the most recent booster dose recommended within two months of the last vaccination date. Staff who are not up to date must test twice/week in accordance with our posted schedules. Staff are required to receive an annual influenza vaccine or to have an exemption in accordance with the New Jersey regulation. Staff vaccination dates will be scheduled after resident vaccinations are completed.

Rabbi Randy Mark will celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with our residents on September 29, 2022 at 2 pm. We wish our residents, their family members and our staff who are celebrating Rosh Hashanah a Happy New Year!

Our future resident events include:

- A rock 'n roll dance party on October 5, 2022
- Octoberfest celebration on October 7, 2022, with a special luncheon and a musical celebration
- Italian Heritage celebration on October 12, 2022, with a special luncheon and a musical celebration
- A visit by "Michael Jackson" on October 14, 2022
- A visit by "Elton John" on October 22, 2022

Except for luncheons that are served on resident units, all celebrations take place in our main dining room at 2 pm. Residents' guests who wear a mask completely covering their nose and mouth may participate in the celebrations in the main dining room. Please note: cloth masks are not permitted.

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