



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, October 4, 2022
Celebrating Hispanic and Italian Heritage Months

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 Update on October 4, 2022, four residents and one nurse tested positive. Three of the four residents live on resident unit 3-400; one resident lives on unit 3-200. Our nurse worked on resident units 3-400 and 2-400 with residents on ventilators. Three residents are hospitalized. Our residents who tested positive are residing on unit 2-400 "C" section. Visitors to unit 2-400 "C" must wear personal protective equipment that is provided on the unit. Residents and staff with whom our nurse or residents had close contact who were not positive within the last 90 days are tested in accordance with regulatory requirements.

The current outbreak began on April 18, 2022. Fifty-seven staff and thirty-one residents have tested positive. Two staff are currently out of work.

Patrick Kuiken, RN, Infection Preventionist is administering the bivalent booster vaccines to those who are eligible to receive the booster and consent to receive it. Staff who are not up to date must test twice/week in accordance with our posted schedules.

Mr. Kuiken is also administering influenza vaccines to residents who consent to receive it. New Jersey mandates that staff must receive an annual influenza vaccine or have an exemption in accordance with the New Jersey regulation.

The New Jersey Department of Health expanded the "Docket" App to give individuals the option to access all of their vaccination records that are recorded in the State's immunization records system. New Jersey offers the App on the Apple App Store and on Google Play at no cost.

On October 6, 2022, the Wayne Public Library Community Outreach program brought the library to our Home to enable residents to borrow books, DVDs, CDs and sign-up for a library card. The library will return in November.

Future resident events in our Home include:

- 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.

Weather-permitting, we are returning to the community. Residents visited a local zoo, have a trip to the racetrack scheduled, trips to local parks, an arboretum and shopping trips. Our Therapeutic Recreation staff can be contacted for information regarding community trips.

Attending physicians are required to assess long-term care residents monthly or more frequently as their conditions require. Our Social Services staff can provide physician contact information to the designated representative for a resident.

Eileen Comerford, Volunteer Advocate from the Office of the NJ Ombudsman has been assigned to our Home for residents of all ages. The restriction that the Ombudsman's representatives could only assist residents 60 years and older is no longer in place. Ms. Comerford looks forward to meeting residents and plans to begin her service on Saturday, October 15, 2022.

Antigen tests are available for visitors who wish to be tested. Please inform the Security staff when visiting if you wish to be tested.

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