



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, October 14, 2022
Celebrating Italian 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.

Since the Update on October 10, 2022, one resident and three staff tested positive. Our resident lives on resident unit 1-400. The staff work in our Security department and in a support department. 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 resident and staff had close contact are tested in accordance with regulatory requirements.

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. To date, 159 residents and 98 staff have received the bivalent booster vaccine.

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.

Weather-permitting, on October 18, 2022, the electrical utility company will replace an electrical transformer located in our rear parking area. Simultaneously, the contractors for the solar panels project will connect electrical components. During the work which is tentatively scheduled to begin at approximately 9:30 am on October 18, 2022 and conclude on October 19, 2022, our electrical power will be provided by our emergency generator and a mobile generator. Except for emergency vehicles, there will not be access to our Home through the rear entrances. Deliveries and non-emergent medical transport will be directed to the front entrances. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- October 18, 2022, 9:30 am to approx. 11:30 am
 - The Preakness Healthcare Center emergency generator will provide power to life safety systems, critical equipment, resident equipment and emergency lighting. Resident TVs will not be operational during this two-hour period.

- October 18, 2022, 11:30 am until the conclusion of the project on October 19, 2022
 - The mobile generator will be energized to provide power to the entire facility.

The rear parking areas will be closed beginning on October 16, 2022, at 11 pm to facilitate the installation of the mobile generator on October 17, 2022. It will remain on-site through the conclusion of the project on October 19, 2022.

On October 13, 2022, we said good-bye to one of our residents who has been our resident since December 1998. We offer our condolences to her family and co-residents and thank our staff who have taken care of our resident for almost 24 years.

Eileen Comerford, Volunteer Advocate from the Office of the NJ Ombudsman will begin her service on Saturday, October 15, 2022. She looks forward to meeting residents.

Future resident events beginning at 2 pm in our Home include:

- October birthday musical celebration on October 21, 2022
- A visit by “Elton John” on October 22, 2022
- A visit by “Puppy” and two additional certified therapy canine friends on October 24, 2022 in the rotunda patio
- Latin dance party on October 26, 2022
- Halloween celebration on October 31, 2022 (costumes are welcome!)

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.

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