



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, December 2, 2022

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 December 2, 2022, one resident who lives on resident unit 1-300 and two staff (C NA and Recreation staff) who work on the 1-300 unit tested positive. Residents who tested positive are residing on resident unit 2-400 "C" section until transmission-based precautions are discontinued. We have expanded the testing of staff to include all staff until further notice. All residents who had close contact with the residents or staff who tested positive will be retested in accordance with regulatory requirements. To date, since the beginning of the current Outbreak on November 23, 2022, ten residents and ten staff have tested positive. Eight of the ten residents are fully-vaccinated. The eight vaccinated residents received the bivalent booster. The ten staff are fully-vaccinated. One of the staff who tested positive received the bivalent booster.

Patrick Kuiken, RN, Infection Preventionist is continuing to administer the bivalent booster vaccines to residents and staff who are eligible to receive the booster and who consent to receive it.

As a reminder to staff, December 31, 2022, is the deadline established by the NJ Department of Health to receive an influenza vaccine or to submit a medical exemption that meets the criteria established by the NJ Department of Health.

Future resident events beginning at 2 pm in our Home's main dining room include:

- Holiday Karaoke on December 7, 2022
- Veteran's Social (by invite) on December 9, 2022
- Holiday music party with Interactive Photo Booth on December 10, 2022

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.

The Passaic County Board of County Commissioners in collaboration with Passaic County social services agencies are hosting a "Holiday Angel Tree Toy Drive" to provide toys to the YMCA of Paterson, the Paterson Great Falls Military Assistance Program and foster children in Passaic County. Donations of new gifts would be appreciated. The gifts do not need to be wrapped. We will have a receptacle for the gifts in our main entrance lobby and the employee entrance.

The Passaic County Board of County Commissioners in partnership with the NJ Department of Health is offering free COVID-19 test kits for Passaic County residents. There is a limit of two kits/person, while supplies last. The kits can be picked up at the Passaic County Dept of Health Services, 930 Riverview Drive, Suite 250, Totowa, 973-881-4396, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm.

Next week, we will begin a project to upgrade our fire alarm system in the 200s and 400s sections of our Home. The work will include replacing the smoke detectors that are located throughout these sections of our Home including in resident rooms. We will provide updates of the project schedule/locations as the project progresses.

Weather-permitting, beginning on December 5, 2022 for approximately two weeks, solar panels will be installed over the main entrance areas to access the roofs behind the courtyard. The work areas will be protected. Vehicles will be able to drive to our front entrance canopy to bring visitors/supplies, but not through the circular drive.

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