



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, December 8, 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 7, 2022 and December 8, 2022, five staff tested positive: one staff from our rehab department, one C NA from resident unit 2-400, one environmental services staff from resident unit 1-400, one nurse in a support position and one business staff with limited resident contact. We are continuing to test staff twice/week until further notice. Residents who had close contact with the residents or staff who tested positive are tested in accordance with regulatory requirements. Residents who tested positive are residing on resident unit 2-400 "C" section until transmission-based precautions are discontinued. To date, since the beginning of the Outbreak on November 23, 2022, thirteen residents and twenty-nine staff have tested positive. Ten of the thirteen residents are fully-vaccinated. Nine residents received the bivalent booster. Three residents completed the transmissions-based precautions period and returned to their units. The twenty-nine staff are fully-vaccinated. Six of the staff received the bivalent booster. Two staff completed the transmission-based precautions period and returned to work.

Due to the increase in COVID positivity, resident events in our Home's main dining room are cancelled. Fr. Jim will celebrate mass virtually until further notice.

We were asked to share information from the New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well's partnership with the New Jersey Department of Health regarding an information session on COVID vaccines and boosters for older adults. The session will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 6:30 pm via Facebook live (<https://fb.me/e/3cYbLrf1y>).

Patrick Kuiken, RN, Infection Preventionist is continuing to administer the bivalent booster vaccines to those who are eligible to receive the booster and who consent to receive it. To date, 73% of residents and 44% of staff received the bivalent vaccine.

Influenza activity is high as reported in the New Jersey Department of Health Surveillance Reports. To date, 86% of residents and 77% of staff received the influenza vaccine. As a reminder to staff, December 31, 2022, is the deadline established by the New Jersey Department of Health to receive an Influenza vaccine or to submit a medical exemption that meets the criteria established by the New Jersey Department of Health. Staff who do not comply by the deadline may not work.

We are proud to share with you that our work on antibiotic stewardship was recognized by the New Jersey Department of Health with a Gold level award! The criteria included the appropriate use of antimicrobials to preserve their efficacy, decrease the advent of new resistant organisms and reduce the spread of existing organisms. Patrick Kuiken, RN, Infection Preventionist leads our team in this endeavor. Feel free to contact Patrick Kuiken, RN or Daniel Nasulme, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing with any questions regarding antibiotic usage.

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. Receptacles for the gifts are in our main entrance lobby and the employee entrance.

The Passaic County Board of County Commissioners in partnership with the New Jersey 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.

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, 973-585-2113; Daniel Nasulme, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing, 973-585-1409; Aleyamma John, RN, BSN, Assistant Director of Nursing, 862-345-5911 and Patrick Kuiken, RN, Infection Preventionist, 973-585-2169 are available 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