

Clinician Update

November 23, 2022

Happy Thanksgiving!

This *Clinician Update* is coming out early this week in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday. As clinicians, you know all too well, the needs of our community never take a holiday. You are all selfless professionals and irreplaceable. You serve on the frontlines each day, and that includes holidays. But you too have parents, grandparents, children, and grandchildren who you long to celebrate with. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work each and every day and to wish you and your loved ones a safe and restful celebration.

In the spirit of gratitude, feel free to [stop by the Colleague Facebook page](#) to share your thoughts at this special time of year.

Spreading Good! Virtua Health Distributes 700 Free Turkeys to South Jersey Residents

The Virtua Eat Well team and colleagues from various Virtua departments this week gave away frozen turkeys and fresh produce to 350 Burlington County and 350 Camden County families. Virtua aims to help everyone be well, get well, and stay well—and eating well is an essential component of that mission.

Virtua held a drive-thru giveaway at Virtua Willingboro Hospital and a walk-up event at Virtua Camden. Each person or family received a 12- to 14-pound frozen turkey, celery, onions, carrots, sweet potatoes, and Idaho potatoes.

The Virtua Eat Well program aims to improve health through better nutrition, reduced diet-related chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease, and by fighting food insecurity. In Camden, for example, 40% to 50% of households do not have reliable access to sufficient affordable, nutritious food.

Several media outlets reported on the turkey giveaway, including [NJ.com](#), [6abc](#), and [NBC10](#)

A Closer Look: Virtua and Rowan Dream Big for Bright Future

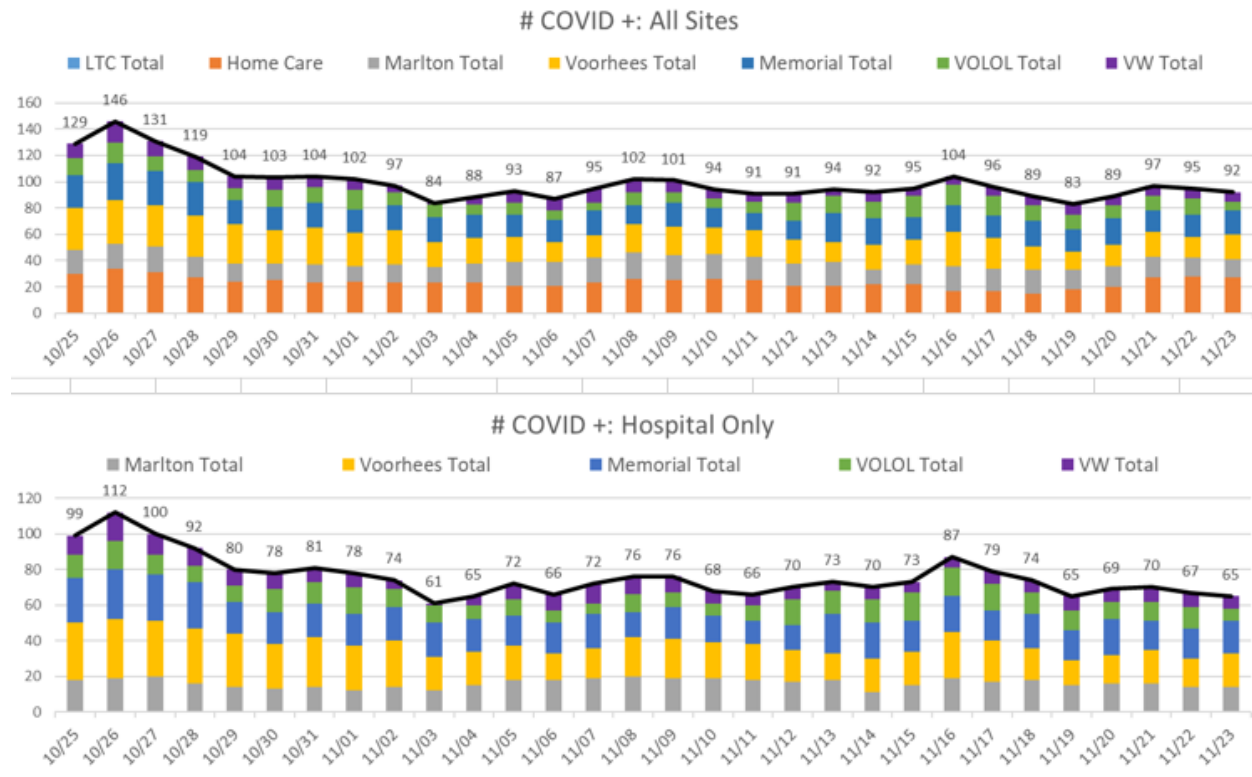
Earlier this month, we shared news of the unveiling of the Virtua Health College of Medicine & Life Sciences of Rowan University. For a closer look at the people driving this collaboration and to hear how it will reimagine the future of medicine for our region, please enjoy this [stirring video recap](#) of the Nov. 7 celebratory event.

“This is big. It’s transformational. And it’s different from how anyone has built a program of this nature,” said Tony Lowan, provost of Rowan University.

U.S. Congressman Donald Norcross added, “There are pivotal moments in health care and education in South Jersey. What we see here is the culmination of all that coming together. It’s a community, it’s a neighborhood, and it’s right here.”

For even more about the College, including the schools and institutes it encompasses, visit rowan.edu/vhc.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported today as 0.89.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 66,989
 - Burlington County: 107,085 cases
 - Camden County: 129,939 cases
 - Gloucester County: 66,222 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,945.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 19,694,547 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Monkeypox Stats

As of today’s weekly posting, the number of probable and confirmed cases of monkeypox cases in New Jersey: 759.

'Tis the Season

With flu and the risk for another surge of COVID-19 cases upon us, we are reminding all colleagues of the importance of following our safety protocols pertaining to the spread of infectious diseases. Additionally, we are reminding all the members of your teams to be familiar with the update to the COVID-19 protocols for symptomatic colleagues. Colleagues will no longer call the Triage Line to report symptoms of COVID-19. Instead, pursuant to the updated [Infectious Disease of an Employee policy](#), colleagues who have new onset of symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will take a rapid antigen (home test) prior to reporting to work.

If the test is negative, and the requirements detailed in the [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) are met, the colleague may report to work with a mask properly worn at all times. If the test is positive, the colleague must follow normal departmental procedure to call out sick and report the positive result using the [online assessment tool](#) available on the Colleague Corner portal. For additional details, visit the [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) on the Colleague Corner portal.

Virtua Primary Care – Linwood Scores “Best of the Press” Recognition

Congratulations to Virtua Primary Care – Linwood for its earned loyalty from the community. *The Press of Atlantic City*, the primary newspaper for southeastern New Jersey and the Jersey Shore, recently posted its popular annual [Best of the Press edition](#), in which its readers voted on categories such as, “Best Medical Services in Atlantic and Cape May Counties.”

After more than 90,000 overall nominations in the introductory first round and more than 252,000 votes in the voting round, the practice was voted “Gold in Best Adult Medicine” and “Bronze in Best Family Practice.” This is the fourth year in a row that Virtua Primary Care – Linwood has been honored in the [Best of the Press edition](#).

For practice manager Jennifer Laramore, it’s all about a great staff. “We just love working together to bring forth the best patient experience. Knowing that our patients feel this way about us truly matters so very much to us.”

Congratulations to the Virtua Primary Care – Linwood team for continuing to provide quality care to patients in the community!



Pictured are Laudith Velez, Natalie Ayres, Macy Martin, Dr. Richard Kader, Dr. Farrel Silverman, Melissa Senese, Alberta Lewis, Gina Moss, and Tia Mason. Not pictured are Jennifer Laramore and Mariam Khan.

Five Stars for Virtua Urgent Care – Washington Township

Patients have a choice on where they receive care. Making this decision is not simple, so we are grateful whenever a patient selects Virtua. It's especially nice to hear when our teams make an exceptional first impression. Today, we share a glowing five-star Google review from a patient from Virtua Urgent Care – Washington Township:

I arrived at 8:07 and was out by 8:43, this included having to collect all of my information because I had never been to a Virtua office before. Everyone—front desk staff, techs, nurses, physicians—were kind, caring, and cognizant that I was experiencing severe pain. This is probably the best urgent care experience I've had in more than 10 years. As a result of this visit, I will definitely consider moving all of my health care to Virtua.

Kudos to the Virtua Urgent Care – Washington Township team. It's gratifying knowing we gained a new patient's trust and confidence. It's equally rewarding when they decide to share their experience with a Google review. Help your patient's spread the word about the care they received! Head over to the Brand Hub and print a custom [Universal Google Review card](#) with a unique QR Code for your practice/location.

WE Applaud our Colleagues for Demonstrating our Guiding Principles

Throughout the year, we highlight posts from WE Applaud that showcase our colleagues demonstrating our Culture of WE. Bridget LeGrazie, AVP of oncology, recognized Dr. Matthew Puc, lead physician of

Virtua Medical Group, for educating other colleagues at Virtua—demonstrating Continuous Learning & Innovation. Thank you, Dr. Puc, for elevating our Culture of WE!

WE Applaud Tip: Check out our selection of Thanksgiving eCards. Visit WE Applaud on the VINE or click peopleareeverything.com/virtua.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APC Educational Series: Kidney/Pancreas Transplant Surgery

Dec. 7, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and registered nurses will identify factors that influence kidney/pancreas transplant candidacy; describe kidney transplant surgery risks, including short- and long-term such as rejection and infections; gain understanding of transplant immunosuppression and prophylactic medication management; and describe key components of post-transplant monitoring by the transplant team, as well as other health care providers.

Click to [view the flyer](#).

Healthy Nutrition through the Holiday Season & Beyond

The Women of Virtua Colleague Community invites you to join a discussion about nutritious food for the holiday season and beyond. This program takes place on **Tuesday, Dec. 6** from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and will include tips to maintain a healthy weight, as well as ways to prepare meals through the winter months.

Additionally, we will collect non-perishable food for the Virtua Food Farmacies at the event. Top items to donate include pasta, brown rice, canned protein or vegetables, snack items, and cereal. Click to [view additional food items](#) for donation.

Space is limited to 75 participants. [Register via the Virtua Learning System](#), type “Healthy Nutrition through the Holiday Season & Beyond” in the search box.

Contribute to Virtua's Healthy Cookbook

In the spirit of the holiday season, the 303 Lippincott Drive/Howard Boulevard RISE Team invites you to contribute healthy, family-favorite recipes. The recipes will be part of a Virtua Health cookbook, which will be available to all colleagues in 2023.

Click to [submit the recipe for your tasty dish](#).

Colleagues who participate will automatically be entered to win a \$50 gift card to Wegmans, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, or Bed Bath & Beyond (five lucky winners).

Click to [view the flyer](#).

Thankfulness Is Good Contagious

With Thanksgiving upon us, we focus on the causes and people that enhance our lives, Virtua is grateful for the more than 800 colleagues who participated in Give for Good this year. Your generosity is a tremendous example of our shared Culture of WE, and you are making a difference for our patients, the community we serve, and each other. Thank you!

If you are still considering your personal participation, or perhaps planning to join us on a meaningful day such as Thanksgiving Day or Giving Tuesday (**Nov. 29**), know that your gift is welcomed today, tomorrow, or any day. One hundred percent of your gift goes directly to support the program or service you designate, and no minimum giving level is required—all gifts are important and appreciated.

To learn more and make your gift: visit GiveToVirtua.org/Colleagues. Questions are welcome! Please call the Office of Philanthropy at 856-355-0830 or email gratitude@virtua.org.

Also, The Camden RISE Team is continuing to celebrate *National Gratitude Month* and bringing the **#AttitudeofGratitude** to our Virtua colleagues. Click to read this [week's message](#) regarding bringing gratitude to the dinner table on Thanksgiving.