

Clinician Update

Dec. 23, 2020

Vaccination Roll Out Underway

Virtua is working diligently to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to all our clinical staff, with a smooth process reported and many excited staff posting vaccination selfies on Virtua's social media channels. In fact, by the end of today, more than 3,300 colleagues will have received the first dose of the vaccine in the first days of Virtua's COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic.

As noted in [Friday night's webinar](#), appointments are being scheduled in waves, and starting today, all Virtua medical staff are now able to schedule their appointments, through the process offered below. (We anticipate clinicians' office staff can begin scheduling on Monday, Dec. 28, in the next wave; however, this is not guaranteed since we must first receive that week's shipment of vaccine. Notice will be sent when scheduling is open.)

Process to Schedule

Remember to consider your work schedule and attempt to schedule when off work for at least one day and ideally two days after vaccination.

The Access Center has created the following email address and phone support for medical staff and providers. You can schedule via:

- Email: covidvaccine@virtua.org
Include: Name, date of birth, mobile phone number, email used in MyChart, and your preferred date and time. (See notes below regarding MyChart.)
- Phone: **856-325-3300**. Best time to call is from 5 to 8 p.m., as there are dedicated medical staff representatives available at this time.

How Does MyChart Fit Into This Process?

Virtua is employing MyChart to facilitate the registration and scheduling of individuals for the vaccine. You are not able to schedule your own appointment through MyChart, and you are not required to have MyChart to get a vaccine, but having an account greatly reduces the time to schedule and facilitates communications. For example, individuals will receive an appointment confirmation and reminders through MyChart. (The MyChart tutorial video is available [here](#).)

Issues with MyChart?

MyChart Support: **856-246-4113**

Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Things to Know Before Your COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment

Here are some key takeaways to consider as you plan for your vaccination appointment so to help make the process run smoothly.

What to wear?

Remember, the vaccinator will need to access your upper arm, so consider wearing a t-shirt under a warm winter coat. Don't forget to wear a facemask and eye protection to your appointment. If you don't have these items, they will be provided to you.

Where to go?

Virtua's Vaccination clinic is open seven days a week (except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day) at:

Virtua Barry B. Brown Health Education Center (also known as the HEC)
106 Carnie Boulevard
Voorhees, NJ 08043

Please note: The front entrance is currently part of the COVID-19 testing center. To avoid any confusion with those receiving testing, please **enter the campus through Mohrfield Drive and follow the signs for the vaccination clinic**. You can park in the rear of the building. Continue to follow the signs to ensure you enter through the correct door.

Please consult this map and follow the signs for "COVID Vaccination Clinic" when you arrive.



How to avoid crowding

For operations to run smoothly – and to avoid crowding at the clinic entrance – we ask that everyone arrive to their scheduled appointment on time. Getting there early is even better, but please remain in your car until five to 10 minutes before your appointment time.

No guests, please

For the safety of all parties, we aim to minimize the number of people entering our facilities. Therefore, please come to your vaccination appointment alone.

Postpone your selfie until after the shot

To spread the good news about the vaccine, we encourage you to visit our selfie station before you leave. You'll receive a sticker and a Hamilton-inspired social sign to fill out and share with the world. But no selfies during the vaccination.

Set aside enough time

Federal agencies require that those who receive the COVID-19 vaccine remain under observation for at least 15 minutes after they receive the vaccine. Individuals who have a history of allergic reactions to vaccines will need to stay for 30 minutes. This is a simple safety measure to ensure everyone is OK. Please account for this time when planning your day.

Make the most of the time by downloading the [CDC's V-Safe mobile app](#). This app allows vaccine recipients to report any symptoms they experience, which helps contribute to the nation's data about these new vaccines.

Don't forget your record card!

A friendly volunteer hands each colleague a COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card as they exit the building. Do not forget this important document, and bring it to your appointment to receive a second dose 21 days later.

Post-vaccination

Call the Colleague COVID-19 Hotline (**609-444-2828**) as soon as possible if you have symptoms of cough, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell that might be more indicative of COVID-19 rather than related to vaccination.

COVID-19 Vaccine Questions from the Virtua General Email Mailbox

Thank you to the colleagues who emailed virtuainfo@virtua.org with your COVID-19 vaccine-related questions. Below are the answers to those questions. We invite you to continue sending your inquiries to virtuainfo@virtua.org, and we will answer them in upcoming editions of *Clinician Update*.

Has Virtua received any additional vaccines after the first shipment that arrived last week?

Yes, yesterday, Virtua received a second shipment of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as anticipated. This is terrific news, as it allows us to continue scheduling and providing the vaccine to our colleagues.

For more information about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine at Virtua, We encourage you to visit the [Coronavirus Resource Center](#) on the VINE to view Frequently Asked Questions, a Step-by-Step Guide for your COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment (also available in Spanish), and a Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers of the Pfizer Vaccine.

If symptoms of body aches or low-grade fever occur [after receiving the vaccine], are Tylenol and Motrin able to be taken?

The CDC recommends that people who experience pain or discomfort speak with their respective care providers about taking over-the-counter medicines.

For additional information on the subject, please consult the CDC’s article: [“What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine.”](#)

Will Virtua be offering the vaccine to spouses of employees?

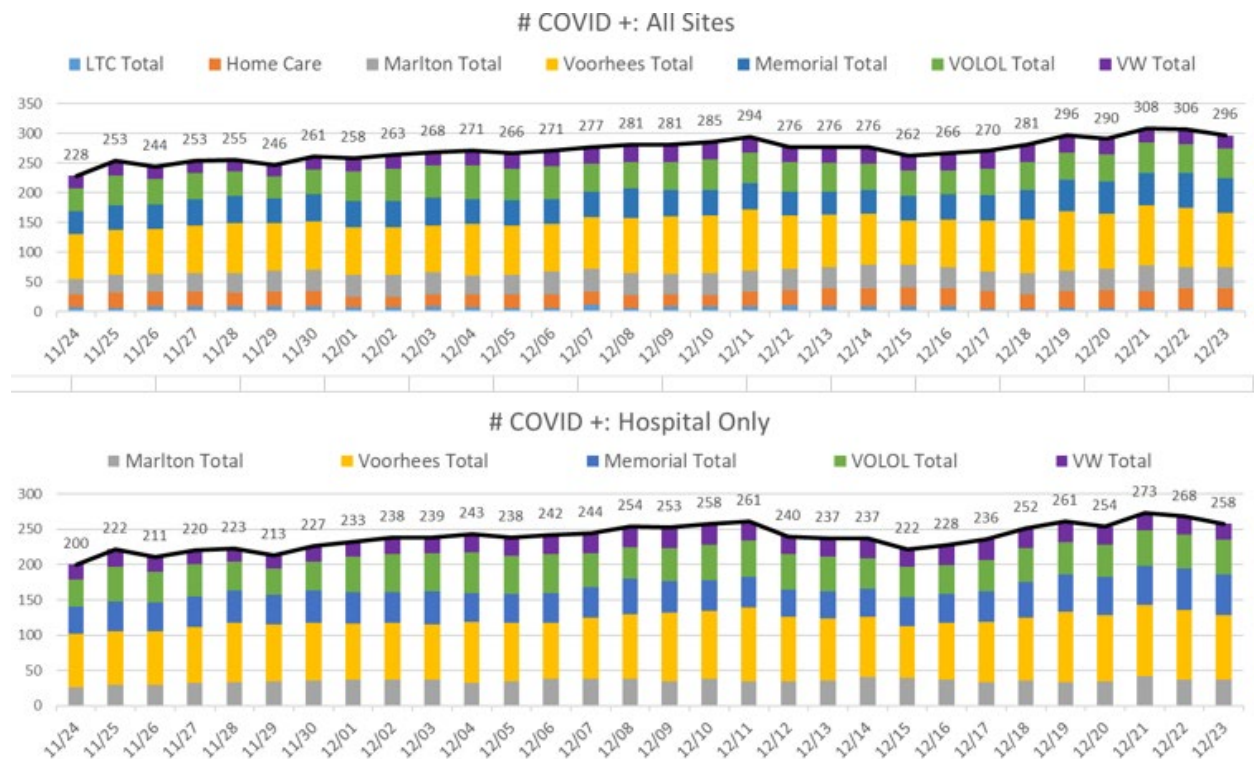
Many colleagues are understandably eager to have their spouse and/or other family members vaccinated in the near future. At this moment, COVID-19 vaccines are only available to people who fall within the New Jersey Department of Health’s “Category 1A,” which includes “persons serving in health care settings” and “long-term care residents and staff.”

In time, vaccines will be available to other groups (such as essential workers and senior citizens) and, eventually, the general public. New Jersey’s goal is to vaccinate 70 percent of the adult population within six months.

You can read more about the Department of Health’s distribution plan [here](#).

By the Numbers

The following charts reflect the latest figures for Virtua-site cases of COVID-19.



Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is currently at .97.
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 1,612 confirmed deaths, as of 1 p.m. today. The state also reports “probable” deaths from COVID-19, with figures shared separately

on the [state dashboard](#). For the three counties, probable deaths would account for an additional 113 fatalities.

- The total number of cases are as follows:
 - Burlington County 19,213
 - Camden County 26,533
 - Gloucester County 13,006

Referral for Bamlanivimab Treatment

As reported last week, Virtua received emergency use authorization to offer Bamlanivimab, a monoclonal antibody treatment for non-hospitalized patients with mild-to moderate COVID-19 symptoms and who have high-risk for hospitalization or progression to severe illness plus one or more of the following risk factors: BMI of 35 or higher, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, immunosuppressive disease or receiving immunosuppressive treatment, age 65 or older, or age 55 or older with certain chronic conditions.

If you have patients who meet the criteria, a referral line has been established through the COVID-19 Triage line: **856-325-3150**.

Dennis W. Pullin Pens Op-Ed About “Taking my Shot at Building Trust”

In anticipation of the COVID-19 vaccine arriving at Virtua, President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE, reflected on the historical significance of the occasion and how he, as a black health care executive, strives to use this opportunity to demonstrate leadership and build trust.

He writes, “As the coronavirus continues to threaten all people, and those of color most, dispelling skepticism is critical and my role is key. I am not a caregiver or a front line hero, but I represent them and I will not let them down.”

Read the full essay on [Philly Voice](#).

Spanish-Language Resources

For colleagues whose primary language is Spanish, please consult the resources below.

- FDA: [Hoja informativa para receptores y proveedores de cuidado](#)
- Virtua: [Guía paso a paso para su cita de vacunación contra la COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Beneficios de vacunarse contra el COVID-19](#)

Holiday Concert