

Clinician Update

January 19, 2023

Virtua's Hospital at Home Program Celebrates First Year

One year ago today, Virtua Health officially launched its Hospital at Home program. The service has just surpassed 350 patients served, spanning over 1100 patient days, with the treatment of over 60 different DRGs, and the program continues to make strides in serving the community. The innovative initiative, which is available at all five Virtua hospitals, allows eligible patients to be treated from the comfort of their home rather than a hospital room. The Hospital at Home model offers advantages to both patients and providers, and is widely viewed by the industry as a key component of health care's ongoing digital evolution.

"This is a new model in the evolution of hospital care and Virtua is at the forefront," said Michael W. Capriotti, MBA senior vice president of integration and strategic operations. "In the past, many of these patients would be cared for in the hospital and now we bring the hospital to them."

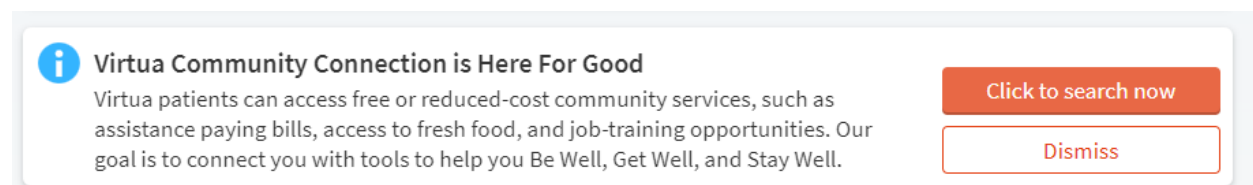
Hospital at Home enables patients to receive hospital-level care from home. While the plan-of-care is specific to the individual, most every participant will experience:

- Twice-daily visits from Hospital-at-Home clinicians
- Remote monitoring using a variety of Virtua-issued devices including the capability for continuous monitoring armbands
- Daily virtual visits with a physician or other licensed provider
- Around-the-clock monitoring and support including virtual rounding from the Hospital at Home Command Center
- Easy-to-heat nutritious meals (optional)
- Relevant clinical and ancillary services that would otherwise be provided in the hospital (imaging, pharmacy, lab, therapy, etc.)

To learn more about Hospital at Home, [click here](#).

MyChart Update: Connecting Patients with Community Services

Starting next week, anyone with a Virtua MyChart account will see an announcement like the one in the screenshot below:



The screenshot shows a notification banner with a light blue background. On the left, there is a blue circular icon with a white lowercase 'i'. To its right, the text reads: "Virtua Community Connection is Here For Good". Below this, a paragraph states: "Virtua patients can access free or reduced-cost community services, such as assistance paying bills, access to fresh food, and job-training opportunities. Our goal is to connect you with tools to help you Be Well, Get Well, and Stay Well." On the right side of the banner, there are two buttons: a red button with white text that says "Click to search now" and a white button with a red border and red text that says "Dismiss".

This announcement directs patients to Community Connection, Virtua's primary mechanism for referring patients to social service organizations in the region. Through Community Connection,

patients—including Virtua colleagues—can receive assistance paying bills, accessing fresh food, finding job-training resources, and discovering dozens of local entities that share Virtua's vision for building healthy communities.

Many teams across Virtua already use the platform on behalf of patients, but we want to make it as easy as possible for patients to leverage Community Connection on their own, particularly if they haven't had an appointment with a Virtua provider recently. We encourage you to explore Community Connection yourself as well, and direct patients to find it through MyChart or [directly online here](#).

For a complete demo of the site, please reach out to Dan Master at Dmaster@virtua.org.

Bariatric Surgery Appointments Now Available in Washington Township

Virtua Surgical Group is now offering weight-loss surgery consultations in Washington Township with one of our board-certified bariatric surgeons, Emeka Acholonu, MD. Additional Virtua bariatric surgery offices are located in Cherry Hill, Haddon Heights, Moorestown, and Voorhees.

Click [to learn more about Virtua's bariatric surgery program](#) or share this [sign up for a free information session](#).

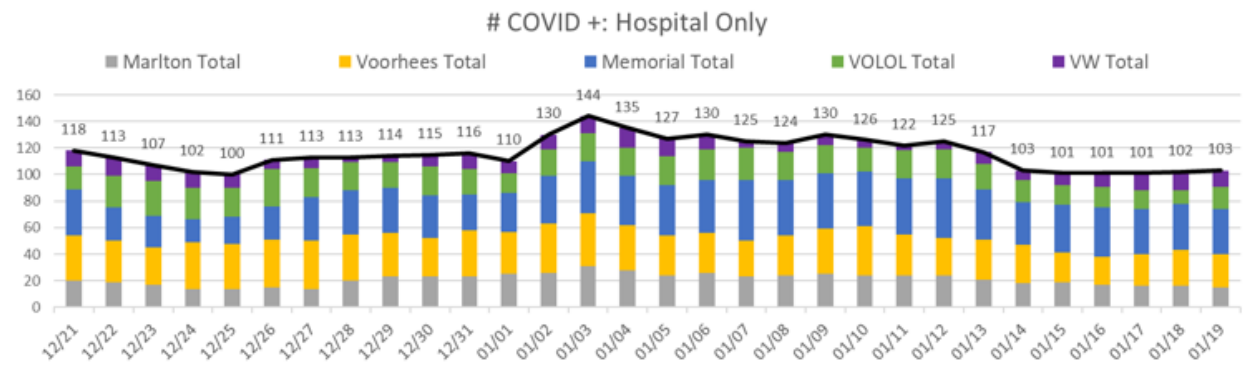
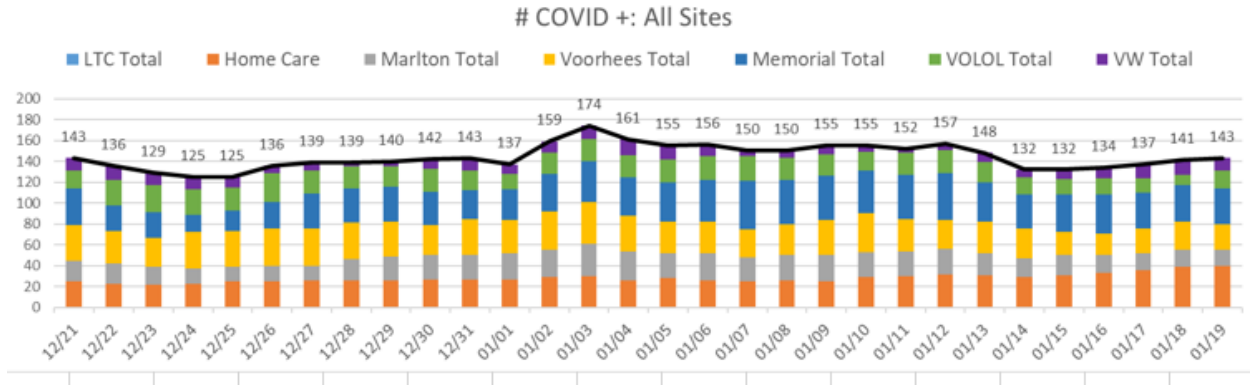
Blood Supplies Are Reduced in New Jersey

The American Red Cross is experiencing a [reduced blood supply](#). Donors are needed. As Virtua works with the Red Cross to host several upcoming blood drives, Virtua laboratory medical directors are making due.

"These are challenging times, as often is the case this time of the year," said Dr. David Obando, chairman of laboratory services at Virtua. "But working together, we can help preserve our precious commodity. For sure, I ask that you please consider donating, and promoting to the community the importance of donating blood."

We invite you to join your colleagues in helping to maintain a sufficient blood supply, either at a Virtua location or another drive in the region. And to spread the word. [Schedule a Blood, Platelet or Plasma Donation | American Red Cross \(redcrossblood.org\)](#)

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported today as .93.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 69,557
 - Burlington County: 111,808 cases
 - Camden County: 135,222 cases
 - Gloucester County: 68,579 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 5,061.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 20,114,221 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Mpox Stats

As of the last weekly posting, the number of probable and confirmed cases of mpox cases in New Jersey: **764**.

Next Week! Exclusive Provider Event

Proton Therapy: Advancements and Applications

Jan. 25, 2023

2023 will be a significant year for proton therapy in South Jersey. Join the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program on Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 5:30 p.m. for a reception, clinical overview, and tour of the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center. This event is exclusive to providers, and will be of

special interest to gastroenterologists, urologists, ENTs, GYNs, and specialists within the neurosciences, as well as medical, surgical, and radiation oncologists.

The event is an opportunity to see the center live, learn more about proton's applications, and to meet the clinical leaders who are bringing this new technology to South Jersey.

Register here: [Proton Therapy: Advancements and Applications | Virtua Health](#)

The event will take place at the Virtua Voorhees Health & Wellness Center, 200 Bowman Dr., Health & Wellness Building E, Conference Room 130. For any questions, email VirtuaClinician@virtua.org.

Explore the Virtua Science Library on the Colleague Corner

The Virtua Health Science Library has moved to [a new location on the Colleague Corner](#). The new website is located under the "Nursing" tab at the top navigation or via the "Quick Links" at the bottom of the Colleague Corner homepage. It provides access to the most current and quality information resources, useful ebooks and journals, and other online databases, such as the Library Collection's Discovery Tool, ClinicalKey, Dynamic Health, Nursing Reference Center Plus, Lexi-Comp, CINAHL, PubMed, and others.

Librarians Helen-Ann Brown Epstein (covering Virtua Marlton, Virtua Mount Holly, and Virtua Voorhees) and Sophia Kim (covering Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes, Virtua Willingboro, and Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing) are ready to assist with any library-related needs.

"Feel free to peruse the site," said Helen-Ann. "There you will see all the quality resources you usually count on—just rearranged."

Added Sophia, "This is what we are here for—we provide answers to your information needs in a timely manner."

If you need assistance with a literature search, obtaining an article, or accessing research databases, place your information requests in the "InfoBasket" at the center of the page, or if you want to reach the librarians directly, email them at hepstein@virtua.org or skim2@virtua.org.

Celebrating CRNAs, our Trusted Anesthesia Experts on the Frontlines

National CRNA Week is **Jan. 23 to 29**, a great opportunity to acknowledge certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) for their ongoing commitment to patient safety. While nurse anesthetists have been providing anesthesia care to patients for more than 150 years, the CRNA credential came into existence in 1956. CRNAs have specialized skills in airway management, intubation, and advanced patient assessment, and an excellent patient safety record. At Virtua, there are 125 CRNAs across all our hospital campuses, and we recognize them for providing world-class care to our patients.

"It is my honor to salute our talented CRNA colleagues across the Virtua system," said J. Mark Armstrong, MD, chairman of the department of anesthesia at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. "Each one of you is a true hero. Thank you for the wonderful care that you provide to our patients."

To learn more about National CRNA Week, visit the [American Association of Nurse Anesthetists \(AANA\)](#).

Cultivating a Beloved Community

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is a defining moment each year when Americans advance Dr. King's dream of making our communities more equitable. The theme of MLK day this year was "Cultivating a Beloved Community Mindset to Transform Unjust Systems."

Virtua Health colleagues honored Dr. King on Jan. 16 by spending time with the members of their communities, performing acts of kindness, and creating meaningful moments—demonstrating his philosophy to love and serve our neighbor.

Donee Thomas-Patterson, MD, Virtua family medicine physician, led the incredible effort of posting MLK Day murals in six Camden schools. [See their work here](#). The murals are Black History Month calendars featuring profiles of historic people. Each day, during announcements, the students will spotlight a new noteworthy individual. Thanks to the support of the Virtua Black and African American Colleague Community and the help of 45 children and 70 volunteers, the murals were posted in just one day on Jan. 16. Dr. Thomas-Patterson calls it "beautification and education all at one time."

Mark Your Calendar for Golf and Gala Dates!

The Virtua Office of Philanthropy, is proud to announce the dates for its golf event and gala.

Virtua Health Golf Classic 2023

The Virtua Health Golf Classic is a very popular outing that offers our corporate donors and friends the opportunity to network and enjoy a wonderful day of golf while supporting the health and wellness of our patients and community.

Monday, June 12, 11a.m.
Union League National Golf Club
Swainton, NJ

Virtua Health Gala 2023

The Virtua Health Gala offers our friends and philanthropic partners the opportunity to join us for an elegant black-tie evening of dining, dancing, and celebrating the power of philanthropy and our shared commitment to be Here for Good.

Saturday, Nov. 4, 6p.m.
Borgata Hotel, Casino & Spa
Atlantic City, NJ

More details about the Golf Classic and Gala, including sponsorship opportunities and registration, will be shared in the coming months.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Kreckel, manager of corporate philanthropic partnerships, at 856-355-0850 or ckreckel@virtua.org.

Celebrating Virtua's Lasting Impact Project Honorees

Gratitude is not a small gesture. It is a meaningful, selfless expression from the heart. Gifts of gratitude uplift us all, and provide a powerful way for the Virtua community to have a lasting impact as they celebrate outstanding care, a job well done, an act of kindness, a special occasion, and more. Last year, nearly 100 grateful patients and community members made philanthropic gifts to recognize a Virtua colleague for their service. We thank our 2022 Lasting Impact Project honorees for exemplifying what it means to be here for good, and for their commitment to making a difference every day. Please join us in extending your congratulations to this distinguished roster of honorees!

Click to [view a larger image](#).

Learn more about The Lasting Impact Project and how we invite our patients and community to share their gratitude at virtua.org/gratitude.

Virtua Celebrates Winter Harvest and Lunar New Year

The VirtuAsia Colleague Community wishes colleagues a Happy Winter Harvest and Lunar New Year! While harvest celebrations are common worldwide, India celebrates a Winter Harvest this time of year. Various regions and cultures engage in diverse celebrations to express gratitude over a bountiful harvest. Click to [learn more about these traditions](#). Also celebrated this month is Lunar New Year, which starts Jan. 22 (during the first new moon) to Feb. 5 (the next new moon of the season). A number of people from various Asian backgrounds, specifically influenced by Chinese culture, celebrate this time of reunion and rebirth. Click to [learn more about Lunar New Year and the significance of the Year of the Rabbit](#).

VirtuAsia extends best wishes and a Happy Pongal, Makar Sankranti, Lohri, Bihu, and Lunar New Year!