

Clinician Update

April 28, 2022

Save the Date: Appropriate Referral for COVID-19 Therapy Webinar, Tuesday, May 3

With the news this week that the [CDC estimates that more than half of U.S. adults have now been infected with COVID-19](#), it is more important than ever for clinicians to remain up to date on the latest advances in therapies and protocols for appropriate referral. Join us next **Tuesday, May 3** for a brief presentation by Virtua Infection Control Officer Martin Topiel, MD, FSHEA, who will present on new oral medications now available that may be a better option for most people. He also will discuss the use of Evusheld, developed specifically for immunocompromised patients as a preventive treatment.

All Virtua clinicians (medical staff, VMG, and VIN) should have received a calendar invitation for the **May 3, 2022 at 6 p.m.** webinar, or [you may also join the meeting here](#). No pre-registration required.

Adapted from the NJHA *Coronavirus Update*

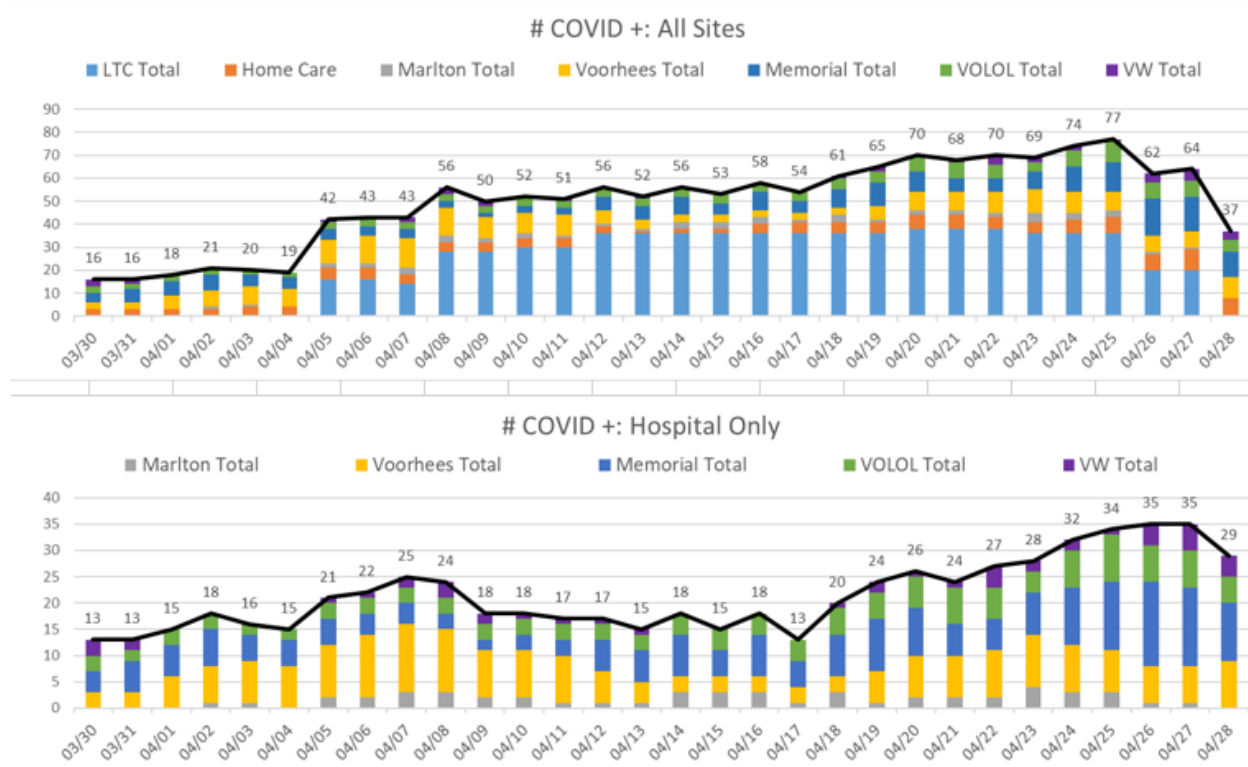
- **Out of Pandemic Phase:** The U.S. has moved beyond the pandemic phase of COVID-19, Dr. Anthony Fauci said this week, making headlines across news outlets. Appearing on *PBS Newshour*, Dr. Fauci said, “We don't have 900,000 new infections a day and tens and tens and tens of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands of deaths. We are at a low level right now. So, if you're saying are we out of the pandemic phase in this country? We are.”

He provided some clarification in further comments today, [telling the Washington Post that the United States is in a transition](#) that hopefully will lead to a “controlled phase and endemicity.” Globally, however, the world remains in the pandemic phase, he added.

- **COVID-19: Third-Leading Cause of Death in U.S. for Second Year:** [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report uses Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data to analyze differences in death rates among segments of the U.S. population.](#)

A new report provided an overview of provisional U.S. mortality data for 2021, including a comparison of death rates for all causes of death and for deaths involving COVID-19. The study found that the overall age-adjusted death rate increased by almost 1% in 2021 from 2020. Overall death rates were highest among non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaskan Native and non-Hispanic Black or African-American people. For the second year, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The latest rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported Tuesday as 1.11.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 55,316
 - Burlington County: 84,859 cases
 - Camden County: 105,600 cases
 - Gloucester County: 55,259 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,602.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 17,510,439 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Virtua in the News

- **Virtua Staff Saves Life of Local Police Officer** — *The New York Times* and other media covered the compelling story of Pennsauken Police Sgt. Frank Talarico Jr. and his wife, Virtua physician assistant Christine Lynch. Sgt. Talarico was hospitalized twice in a matter of weeks: first with a severe case of COVID-19, and then with a pulmonary embolism that almost took his life.

The team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital used a combination of swift action, advanced techniques, and caring support to save the father and public servant. The story appears in the [New York Times](#), [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), [Trentonian](#), and [CBS 3](#)—and more coverage is in the works. Congratulations to the staff at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes for their outstanding, life-saving care!

- **Virtua Expands Midwifery Program with New Camden Site**

Virtua Midwifery – Camden offers personalized pregnancy care and reproductive wellness care for all stages of life. The new center—with a bilingual, certified nurse midwife—aims to improve maternal health outcomes by increasing access to care, says Dr. Nicole Lamborne, Virtua vice president of clinical operations for women's health. Read the [Philadelphia Business Journal story](#).

Proud Virtua Vibes: New Campaign Has Sprung

You are starting to see a new campaign for Virtua Health. We continue to focus on being “here” and everywhere people need us to be, recognizing how expectations have evolved with more consumer emphasis on self-care and access through new channels throughout the pandemic.

Virtua is defining what it means to be Here for Good. As you experience the new creative messaging on some of your favorite shows, stream it on audio, interact on social media, or see it in the printed word, we hope you feel proud. You and your fellow colleagues should be excited by how they make us all shine!

Here are links to the video commercials and some of the imagery below:

<https://youtu.be/dC8cBM45EbE>

<https://youtu.be/qfCCUs849PU>

Virtua Health is a Top Place to Work!

Congratulations, Virtua colleagues! WE were named a **Top Place to Work** by *Becker's Hospital Review*!

The organization recently released the 2022 "150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare" list, which highlights health systems that promote diversity within the workforce, employee engagement, and professional growth.

Virtua was featured among other organizations that offer opportunities to build successful careers as well as substantial wellness benefits to ensure employees strike a positive work/life balance. Click to [view the complete list](#).

Now that we are a Top Place to Work, let's make sure we are also a **Best Place to Work**! Click to take the *Philadelphia Business Journal's* [Best Places to Work survey](#) by **Friday, May 6** and help us receive this important recognition for the Sweet 16th time!

Rousing Support of Dennis Pullin's Opinion Piece about Organ Donation

Last week in *By Design*, we shared Dennis Pullin's [online opinion piece](#) highlighting the awesome power of organ donation and transplantation. Dennis also shared his editorial on [LinkedIn](#), which received enthusiastic support.

Dr. Dan Choi, Virtua's VP of clinical operations for the cardiothoracic service line, responded to the post, writing:

“Great article, Dennis; so many great insights. As a person who's had the privilege of implanting healthy donor hearts to those in need, I can honestly say that nothing is more humbling and gratifying than

being a witness to the magical transformation of how one family's tragic loss positively impacts the life of another human being.

"Every time I run into former transplant patients, I almost never recognize them. Their journey to full recovery may be arduous, but once they're back to life, their entire sense of being is so different than how surgeons see them at discharge (they are up and about, yet still full of anxiety and uncertainty).

"After those initial few months of hard work, they're able to experience and live life to a capacity they haven't known for many years (previously lost to their failing organs). Organ donation is very much proof that humanity is thriving despite the current turmoil in the world as it reflects the essence of one human being leaving an indelible mark of kindness and love for a total stranger, after they pass."

Registering to become an organ donor in New Jersey is easy. You can do it when you renew your driver's license online or in person through the [New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission](#).

By the way, it's always good to amplify and add perspective to one another's social media posts. Doing so keeps the conversation relevant while raising the visibility of you and of Virtua. So keep posting, commenting, and sharing **for good**.

We Invite You to Complete the Following Surveys:

Click to [nominate a SJ Magazine Top Doc](#) by **Friday, May 13**. [Click here](#) and include your license number. The results will be posted in the magazine's September 2022 issue.

Click to [nominate a South Jersey Magazine Top Physician](#). (Despite similar names, this is a different publication than the one above.) Each person can vote one time per day through **Tuesday, May 17**. The results will be published in the fall.

A Gift of Gratitude for Compassionate Cancer Care

Mount Laurel resident Faye Berlin recently made a thoughtful philanthropic gift to celebrate her oncology care team: Dr. Deborah Butzbach, Dr. Emily Gleimer, and Dr. Rachel Levenbach.

She writes, *"They understand me. They respect me and encourage me. They tell me I'm strong!"*

The support and comfort provided by our outstanding physicians make a difference for so many patients, including Faye and countless others. While Faye says that she is always scared that her cancer will come back, the compassionate care provided by Drs. Butzbach, Gleimer, and Levenbach is critical to her experience and outlook. She goes on to add:

"I haven't had a positive scan in two years and I'm very grateful. I appreciate my doctors, and this is a way I can say thank you for how they treat me. They are quick, they minimize my physical discomfort, and they tell me what they're doing. The little things they do mean a lot. I love my doctors and it makes me feel good to make a gift in their honor."

What inspiring words! We are proud to call Drs. Butzbach, Gleimer, and Levenbach Lasting Impact Project Honorees. Visit virtua.org/gratitude to learn more about how we invite our community to make a lasting impact through philanthropy.

Women's Health Throughout the Life Cycle: Menopause, Pelvic Health, and Sexual Wellness **May 25, 5 to 6:30 p.m.**

The Women of Virtua Colleague Community invites you to an eye-opening virtual discussion highlighting areas of women's health that many of us are not comfortable discussing with our health care providers. We encourage you to bring any questions you may have related to menopause, sexual wellness, and pelvic conditions.

You can also anonymously submit questions prior to the session by [clicking here](#). Register via the Virtua Learning System by clicking [here](#). Click to [view the flyer](#).

Patient Experience Week: April 25 to 29

It's Patient Experience Week, a time to reflect upon the compassionate, quality care we strive to provide every day. From facility designers to nurse managers and I.T. teams to clinicians, each and every colleague has an impact on our patients. Below are just a few online reviews that demonstrate how we all come together to create outstanding experiences.

Kimberly S., a patient at Penn Medicine | Virtua Radiation Oncology – Moorestown, wrote:
"What a wonderful facility with top-notch professionals who are so caring and understanding. I would recommend them to anyone who needs this type of medical attention. Dr. David Wilson and his staff are so wonderful."

Madison K., a patient of Virtua Occupational Health – Cherry Hill, wrote:
"10 out of 10! I would recommend this urgent care and all of the people who work at this facility. They are great and I am very grateful for their help."

Sabina A., a patient of Virtua OB/GYN – Cherry Hill, wrote:
"I had the best experience ever! Everyone was super helpful and friendly. I met with Dr. Laura Hamel and she is the best. She explained everything and pays attention to every little thing she comes across. This is my third pregnancy, and I think this is the right place to be."

Mike S., a patient of Advanced Surgical Institute, wrote:
"The whole experience was excellent—from when I walked through the door (where my temperature was taken) to when I entered the surgery suite. Once inside, the front desk staff was friendly, courteous, and fast. After I got called to the back, Shannon took excellent care of me and my concerns and questions were answered with a friendly smile and professional manner. All throughout the entire procedure, everyone who interacted with me was caring and professional."

Colin C., a patient of Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, wrote:
"I had a wonderful experience with the staff, nurses, and doctors. They could not have been nicer. Everyone went above and beyond to ensure comfort and support."