

Clinician Update

April 29, 2021

Special Episode of the Here for Good Podcast with New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy

Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic has always been about more than just numbers. From lives lost to lives lived — it's also about discovering a new sense of humanity.

In our latest episode of the *Here for Good* podcast, President and CEO **Dennis W. Pullin** sits down with **Gov. Phil Murphy** to talk about a range of topics, including the state's road to recovery as we inch closer to a brighter, vaccinated future this summer.

Listen at virtua.org/podcast or find and stream the episode on your favorite podcast app.

Virtua Health Launches Virtua Medical Transport

One call will do it all. Virtua Medical Transport aims to create a seamless experience by managing the logistics of patient transfers and providing the transportation to get our valued patients from point A to point B.

Beginning **Saturday, May 1**, you can reach Virtua's Transfer Center and Medcom Medical Transport Dispatch via one number — **856-886-5111 (x65111)**.

What to expect when transferring a patient

The Transfer Center is a centralized location that facilitates the transfers of patients. This includes both internal and external transfers.

The Transfer Center can help with:

- Identifying a hospital that can accommodate the patient's needs
- Identifying and connecting with an accepting physician
- Coordinating the workflow to place the patient in the most appropriate patient care unit
- Connecting with Medcom to coordinate transportation once the patient is accepted at the receiving facility

What to expect when arranging for transportation

Virtua's Medcom Medical Transport Dispatch will identify the most appropriate transport resource. Of note:

- Virtua has invested in a fleet of new ambulances that will serve as medical transport units. These ambulances contain the most technologically advanced equipment, including state-of-the-art cardiac monitors and ventilators.
- In keeping our patients' needs in mind and when appropriate, Medcom will outsource to a non-Virtua transport company who can better facilitate the trip (similar to an Uber/Lyft service for medical transport).

The Virtua Medical Transport and Virtua Emergency Medical Services teams will share new headquarters. Virtua anticipates adding more than 130 colleagues to the existing team.

"By operating its own transport program, Virtua can ensure operational standards that prioritize safety, quality, and efficiency, as well as its hallmark service excellence," said **James Newman**, Virtua's assistant

vice president of emergency medical services. "Virtua Medical Transport will be entirely dedicated to providing a seamless experience for our patients."

Virtua expects to provide medical transportation for thousands of patients each year. And just one call will do it all — **856-886-5111 (x65111)**. All nurses' stations will receive table-top cards with the new number beginning May 1.

To spread the word on these enhanced services, we encourage you to cascade this information to your colleagues.

Cures Act: Timing on the Release of Test Results

As reported previously, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) recently issued new guidance on the timing of the release of test results to a patient portal. Virtua is working through this new information and will notify clinicians of any changes to our current process in the very near future. Stand by for updates that will be unveiled initially in physician leadership meetings in the short weeks ahead.

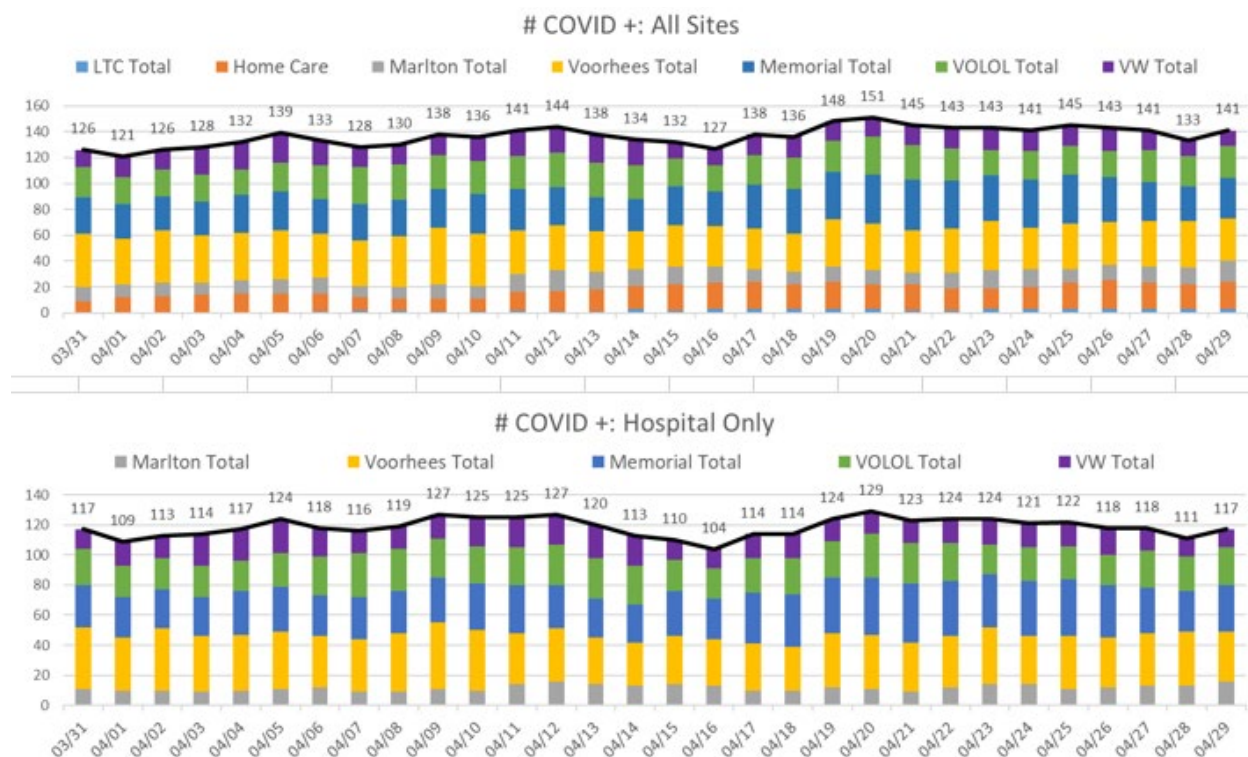
Meanwhile, we encourage clinicians to continue having the conversation with patients around the availability of results through MyChart, and the possibility that they may receive results sooner than they may expect or before the provider receives the result. Patients should be assured that there is a process in place if test results are critical. For inpatients, the patient's nurse or testing department ensures providers are notified after any critical results. As a reminder, clinicians may "unshare" a note, or delay the release of a result, in only two scenarios:

- 1) To prevent harm, when the sharing of information to MyChart is reasonably likely to endanger the life or physical safety of the patient or another person, or
- 2) If the patient (or his/her legal representative) has specifically requested that the note not be shared to his/her MyChart

In February, Virtua went live with the implementation of the key components of the 21st Century Cures Act. This week, Virtua went live on ADT (Admission, Discharge, and Transfer) Event Notifications requirements, in advance of the national May 1 mandate.

We will continue to provide updates as various elements of the Act go into effect. Note that via [Digital 411](#), Virtua has created a special [Cures Act Resource link](#), which is updated regularly.

Virtua COVID-19 Census



Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is currently at 0.72, continuing its downward trend.
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 2,507 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 196 fatalities.
- The total number of cases are as follows:
 - Burlington County 37,383
 - Camden County 47,425
 - Gloucester County 25,716
- The state has added a new tab to its [dashboard](#). Choose “Vaccination Overview” to keep tabs on how New Jersey is doing. As of today, a total of 6,905,696 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment is Easier than Ever

As the supply of the COVID-19 vaccine continues to increase across the country, including New Jersey, appointments are readily available at the Burlington County Mega-Site — often the very next day. In addition, limited walk-up appointments are now available daily between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Vaccine recipients should bring identification and proof of insurance.

Everyone ages 16 and older who lives, works, or attends school in New Jersey is now eligible — and strongly encouraged — to receive the vaccine (16- and 17-year-olds will require a parent or guardian at the appointment).

Interested in getting your church, school, book club, or other group vaccinated? We also offer convenient block appointments at the mega-site. Here’s what to do:

- **Individuals & Families:** Schedule your appointments at virtua.org/vaccine or call 888-VIRTUA-3 and press 1 to get connected.
- **Groups:** Call 856-325-4222 or email covidmegasite@virtua.org. Our navigator will work with you on gathering the names and important information.

To cancel an unwanted appointment, visit virtua.org/cancel.

FDA and CDC Lift Pause on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

After a temporary pause, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [recommend use of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine resume](#) in the United States.

What you need to know

- Reports of adverse events following the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine suggest an increased risk of rare adverse events involving thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS). Nearly all reports of this serious condition have been in adult women younger than 50 years old.
- A review of all available data at this time shows that the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks.
- However, women younger than 50 years old should be aware of the rare but increased risk of this adverse event, and that there are other COVID-19 vaccine options available for which this risk has not been seen.

Patients should be advised to **seek medical care right away** if they develop any of the symptoms listed [here](#) after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Monitoring for safety will continue

The surveillance systems that are in place to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use are working, as demonstrated by both agencies' quick work to identify and investigate these rare-but-serious adverse events. The FDA and CDC will continue to closely monitor the safety of these vaccines.

Governor Murphy Announces Loosening of COVID-19 Restrictions

Governor Phil Murphy announced the easing of restrictions for a variety of activities, effective **May 10**. The changes, which include higher outdoor gathering limits, higher large-venue outdoor capacities, and higher maximum capacities for private, catered events, come as more New Jerseyans continue to receive COVID-19 vaccines.

The changes include:

- **Outdoor Gatherings** - The outdoor gathering limit will be raised to 500 people from 200 people. COVID-19 metrics will continue to be evaluated with the hope of raising the limit again, perhaps considerably, prior to Memorial Day.
- **Large-Venue Outdoor Capacity** - Outdoor capacity limits will be raised to 50% capacity for venues with 1,000 fixed seats or more. The current limit is 30% capacity for venues with 2,500 fixed seats or more. All attendees at these events are required to be six feet apart from other attendees, except for individuals who purchase or reserve tickets together. They may be seated together, but must be six feet away from all other groups or individuals in all directions.
- **Maximum Capacity for Indoor Activities** - Capacity limits for indoor, private catered events, including proms, will be raised to 50% capacity of the room in which the event is being held,

with a maximum of 250 individuals. (The current limit is 35% capacity or a maximum of 150 individuals.) These events must continue to follow all indoor dining protocols.

The limit for political events, weddings, funerals, memorial services, and performances occurring indoors will similarly increase to 50% capacity, with a maximum of 250 individuals. Indoor religious services will continue to operate at 50% capacity, without a numerical cap.

Click to view [more changes](#) to dance floors at indoor catered events; graduations and proms; carnivals and fairs; and camps.

Virtua Celebrates 300,000 Vaccine Doses at Burlington County Mega-Site

On **April 25**, the Burlington County Mega-Site administered its 300,000th dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. To mark the occasion, the onsite team displayed the dozens of design-your-own-facemask submissions that Virtua received over the past few weeks.

To learn more about the interactive activity, visit virtua.org/heroes. (We welcome all submissions, including family, friends, and patients. Perhaps you want to enter yourself.)

Gabriela "Gaby" Peterson received the honorary milestone dose. The stay-at-home mom of three children said, *"It's a big relief. With the weather warming, I am taking my kids to playgrounds and on day trips. It will make me feel better to know that I'm protected when I'm out and about. Hopefully, most everyone I come across is too."*

Lord Reed, a registered nurse at Virtua Memorial Hospital, gave Gaby her big shot. He said, *"I tell people to get vaccinated because of the statistics and the science. I read the research and studies, and they show the vaccines are safe."*

A number of media outlets, including Fox 29 News, covered this momentous occasion. In a news segment, 16-year-old Cassandra Alicea explained why she was eager to get the shot: *"I've been waiting for it. My mom is a nurse, so she really wanted me to get it too... just so I could attend things like prom and go on vacation with my family."* To view the Fox 29 News segment about the milestone dose, click [here](#).

Remember — It Takes Two

[The New York Times](#) recently reported that millions of Americans have missed the required second dose of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Virtua wants to be sure we are communicating that it is imperative that people who receive an initial dose return for the second dose at the recommended day. (The Pfizer vaccine is administered 21 days apart; Moderna is 28 days apart.)

Dr. Martin Topiel, chief infection control officer at Virtua Health, said, *"[Patients] need both vaccine doses to receive the maximum possible protection. Skipping the second dose is like running a race wearing only one shoe. We don't know as of yet how long the protection from only one dose would persist, and certainly two doses would provide longer-lasting protection. Given the spread of the virus, the variants in our region, and the serious health risks COVID-19 presents, it is essential everyone who receives Pfizer or Moderna return for their second-dose appointment."*

Note: The appointment for the second dose is scheduled in person at the Mega-Site after receiving the first dose.

Nine Days Left to Vote Virtua as a Best Place to Work

How can you show your Virtua pride? By participating in the annual “Best Places to Work” survey from the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. Very few organizations have been recognized as often as Virtua. In fact, 2021 would be our 15th year on this exclusive list!

Your input is essential — **we need 1,300 more people to participate** in order to be considered. Please click on the link below to make your voice heard, and encourage your teammates to do the same!

https://survey.quantumworkplace.com/bpsurvey/oc_GHEY99230

The deadline to take the survey is **Friday, May 7**.

Virtua in the News

The Road Ahead: Lessons of COVID-19 Will Yield Lasting Change in Health Care — Virtua President and CEO **Dennis W. Pullin** was among seven health care leaders who provided their perspectives on the unprecedented challenges — and opportunities — presented by the coronavirus. Read the story [here](#).

Virtua Joins National Campaign Urging Americans to Get Vaccinated — Health systems nationwide are working to end the COVID-19 pandemic through the new “Get the Vaccine to Save Lives” campaign. The initiative aims to educate people on the vaccine’s safety and the need for herd immunity. Read the story [here](#).

Burlington County Mega-Site Celebrates Milestone — On April 25, the Burlington County Mega-Site administered its 300,000th vaccine dose. To honor this milestone, Virtua presented a cake to the 300,000th dose recipient, Gabriela "Gaby" Peterson, who was cheered on by the staff. View the CBS3 news segment [here](#).

Virtua Feeds the Soul of Camden — Did you know that Virtua has served the health care needs of Camden residents since the 1880s? This *Tap Into* story provides an overview of Virtua’s commitment to Camden — from an expanded health and wellness center, to multiple mobile programs, to a renowned hospital, and much more. Read it [here](#).

Five Stars for Virtua Willingboro Hospital

Each day, Virtua receives numerous online reviews in which patients and their families express their gratitude for our colleagues. It’s especially nice when reviews mention colleagues by name, just like this five-star review from **Helen C.**, a patient of Virtua Willingboro Hospital:

“I went for blood work at Virtua Willingboro after three failed attempts at another facility. I had a pleasant and very positive technician. Her name is Leeann Traenkner. She is an expert, who drew my blood after just one attempt — I have extremely tiny veins. I also want to shout out Glenda Clark for being supportive and having positive energy. Additionally, during my registration process, all went smoothly thanks to a very helpful employee named Lorraine Hill. Thank you for your help. I appreciate you all!”

Compassionate care, warm smiles, and encouraging words are worth writing about, and we are especially appreciative when our patients and their loved ones take the extra step to share their story with an online review.

Visit the [Brand Hub](#) for new postcards and posters from *The Lasting Impact Project*. These materials will help facilitate conversations about gratitude and the various ways patients can honor their caregivers.

Deadline Approaching: SJ Magazine Top Docs Polling

Reminder, it's time to nominate colleagues for *SJ Magazine's* 2021 Top Docs issue. Voting ends **May 15**.

Here's how it works. "If you were ill, who would you go to?" That is the guiding question being asked. [You can vote here on this link exclusive for physicians](#). A physician license number is required, and you may cast only one ballot.

[Patients are able to poll as well, but would click on this separate link.](#)

The results will be published in the magazine's September 2021 issue. As for last year's list, to view the physicians who were chosen by their peers – and patients – as a 2020 Top Doc, [click here](#).

In Case You Missed It – Musicians On Call

Musicians on Call, an organization that delivers the healing power of music to hospital patients, hosted a virtual performance yesterday with local artists "Last Chance," playing exclusively for select hospitals and health systems in our region, including Virtua. We invite our colleagues, patients, and guests to view and share the 30-minute show found here on [YouTube](#).