

Clinician Update August 18, 2022

COVID-19 News of Interest

Adapted from the NJHA Coronavirus Update August 17, 2022

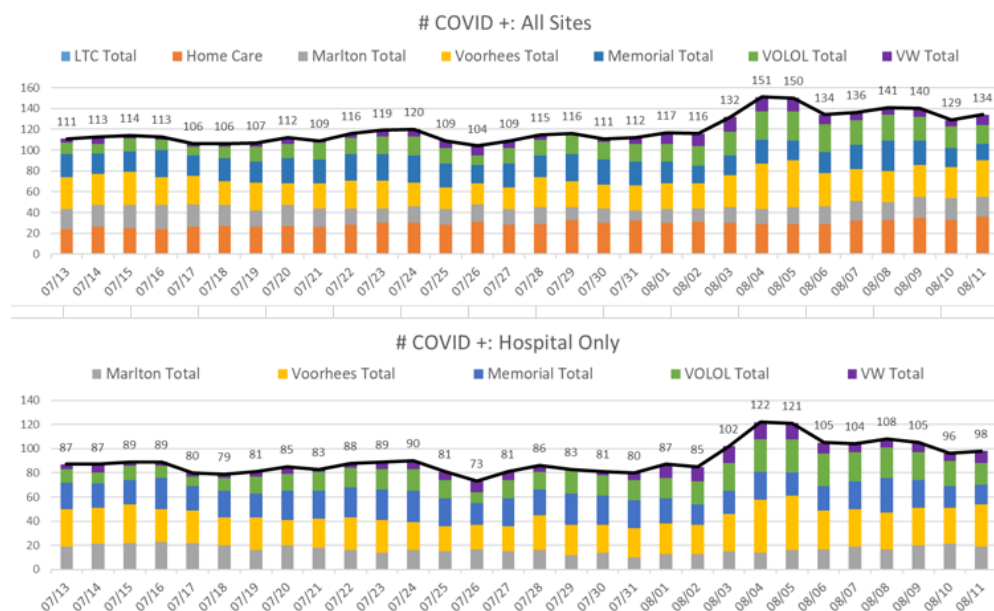
Metrics for Assessing COVID in Communities: A new CDC science brief provides an overview of the factors used in assessing community levels of COVID-19 to inform policy decisions. As the CDC explains, “At this stage of the pandemic, data on disease severity and health care system strain to complement case rates are more informative for public health recommendations for individual, organizational, and jurisdictional decisions than data on community transmission rates alone.” A more comprehensive approach includes metrics such as vaccination coverage, wastewater surveillance, syndromic surveillance and more.

[View the brief](#) to see more on the metrics CDC uses to assess community COVID activity.

Self-Tests Gap in Reporting: Access to at-home COVID testing has been a double-edged sword. While it’s helpful in guiding individuals’ actions, it offers limited use in public health surveillance. That’s the conclusion of [a new CDC analysis](#) which notes that lack of a reporting mechanism for do-it-yourself tests results in “under ascertainment of COVID-19 cases.” Roughly 10.7 million self-test results were voluntarily reported between October 2021 and June 2022, but that’s a small fraction of the 361.9 million laboratory-based and point-of-care test results reported.

Mandating reporting of all self-test results to public health authorities is not practical and could negatively affect acceptability and use of self-tests, which would be detrimental to minimizing disease spread, the authors noted. However, even with the reporting gap of self-tests, the paper concludes that “the integrated, whole-of-government surveillance activity for the COVID-19 pandemic remains strong, incorporating data from various sources, including case surveillance, laboratory testing, syndromic surveillance, genomics testing, hospitalizations, health care use, supply chain capacities, school data, wastewater surveillance, vital statistics, and vaccination.”

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey as of noon today was reported as 0.89.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. yesterday:
 - Atlantic County 63,452 cases
 - Burlington County: 99,781 cases
 - Camden County: 121,285 cases
 - Gloucester County: 62,288 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,820.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 18,449,574 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Monkeypox: Latest NJ News

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is working in conjunction with the CDC and local health departments to quickly identify monkeypox cases and close contacts, provide treatment and vaccine, and further prevent the spread of disease. NJDOH now includes a [link](#) on its website concentrated on monkeypox as part of its Communicable Disease Service. And for the first time this week, the state posted a [demographic dashboard](#) on people infected with monkeypox in the state. [NJ.com](#) summarized the data which showed that nearly all cases involve men and are concentrated most in the northern part of the state. More than one-third of cases are among persons who are Hispanic.

Latest Monkeypox Stats from NJDOH

- The total number of cases in New Jersey reported as of today: **377**

For alerts, vaccine information, and education materials, as well information for health care providers and local health departments, click here for [Monkeypox resource information from NJDOH](#). **Note this link also includes a list centers that offer vaccination.**

Virtua Fitness Center to Close; Renovated as Medical Practices

As a not-for-profit organization, Virtua has an obligation to ensure its programs fulfill a distinct and necessary function in order to be of greatest benefit to the community. As such, the strategic decision was made to permanently close the Virtua William G. Rohrer Fitness Center in Voorhees on **Wednesday, Nov. 30**.

While the region offers many fitness centers and specialty gyms, Virtua is uniquely positioned to provide comprehensive health care services to the South Jersey region. Over time, the fitness portion of the Rohrer Center will be converted into medical practices that will improve patient access and broaden Virtua's service portfolio. The existing medical practices within the facility will continue business-as-usual.

Virtua colleagues who are fitness center members have received direct communications about membership fees and reimbursement options.

Although we will no longer provide this particular service to the community, we will use this opportunity to position ourselves for the future and enhance the experience of the people who trust us with their health. The focus may be shifting, but the Rohrer Center will remain a hub of activity and wellness for years to come.

***Bariatrics Today* Now Posted to Digital 411**

Virtua's most recent issue of the *Today* series of physician education newsletters centers on what is new in bariatric surgery. Our most recent issue, [Bariatrics Today](#) features the host of benefits that this surgery is bringing to weight-loss patients.

"We've refined best approaches and techniques for this surgery so that we can offer patients the intervention that most fits their needs," said Virtua bariatric surgeon Emeka Acholonu, MD, FACS, FASMBS. "The effectiveness of sleeve gastrectomy, with the option of adding modified duodenal switch for patients who need it to achieve targeted weights, has given us the best set of offerings ever in the field."

Remember that our library of publications has a home base on [Digital 411](#), found under "[Additional Resources/Clinician Publications.](#)" There, you can find archived copies of *Clinician Update*, as well as a growing resource of the *Today* series.



Give for Good Is Coming Soon!

Through our annual giving campaign, **Give for Good**, Virtua colleagues can make a remarkable difference for each other, our patients, and the community we serve. This year's campaign rallying period will be from **Monday, Nov. 1 to Tuesday, Nov. 29**. But, colleagues can give at any time of year to make a difference and support Give for Good.

You can learn all about the many programs and special initiatives that our colleagues can support [here](#). Giving is made easy with payroll deduction, PTO donation, a credit card, or check. And here at Virtua, every gift, no matter the amount, has a lasting impact. You can even make a gift in honor of a fellow colleague to celebrate an occasion or recognize a job well done.

Are You Seeking a Meaningful Way to Engage in Our Culture of WE?

Become a Give for Good Ambassador! This is a great role for colleagues who want to get involved and give back while growing or showcasing their leadership, communications, and project-management skills. Ambassadors spend about 45 minutes per week, October through early December, helping to promote Give for Good to their colleagues.

Visit givetovirtua.org/colleagues to learn more or to make an early gift. For questions or to become a Give for Good Ambassador, contact the Office of Philanthropy at 856-355-0830 or gratitude@virtua.org.

Reminder: Fundraiser to Support the People of Ukraine

Virtua Health will host a fundraiser to support the people of Ukraine at all five hospitals and the Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Camden (1000 Atlantic Ave.) on **Tuesday, August 23**. The event is one day before Ukraine Independence Day, and each location will serve Ukrainian meals based on recipes provided by a Ukrainian-American colleague.

Proceeds from the sales will be donated to reputable relief organizations through Virtua's philanthropy team. Bring your appetite and thank you in advance for supporting this important cause.

Please note: For safety, this event is intended for Virtua colleagues, patients, and their visitors, and not the general public.

Supporting Nursing Parents at Work

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative and Virtua Health present a free, virtual webinar via Zoom for nurses, advanced practice nurses, physicians, doulas, lactation consultants, and childbirth educators. The webinar will focus on supporting breastfeeding individuals as they return to work. Click to [register](#) and [view the flyer](#).

Good News Alert: Colleague Picnics in September

Based on feedback from last year's Colleague Culture Survey, Virtua Health is pleased to announce another opportunity for colleagues to join together, engage with one another, and share a meal. Throughout September, Virtua will host colleague picnics at select locations. We invite you to view the schedule below, mark your calendars, and share the good news with your team members.

Note: colleagues based in locations not listed below are invited to attend the picnic at the nearest campus.

Wednesday, Sept. 7

Virtua Voorhees Hospital (Outside the Cafeteria)

11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

10 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 8

Virtua Mount Holly Hospital

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Doctor's Lot)

6 to 9 p.m. (Cafeteria)

Thursday, Sept. 8

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 8

Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Berlin

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

6 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 13

Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Camden

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

5 to 6 p.m.

11 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 13

303/301 Lippincott Drive

Local leadership will share additional details

Thursday, Sept. 15

Virtua Willingboro Hospital

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

6 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 15

Virtua Marlton Hospital

11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

10 p.m. to 12 a.m.

WE hope to see you there!