

## Clinician Update

Dec. 2, 2021

### **New Mount Laurel Vaccine Mega-Site – Soft Opening Underway**

Earlier this week, the new Burlington County COVID-19 Vaccine Mega-Site in Mount Laurel began welcoming guests. More specifically, the clinic is administering second doses of the Pfizer vaccine to the children/dependents of Virtua colleagues, among others.

**If your child received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the Virtua Barry D. Brown Health Education Center (HEC) in Voorhees, please remember that second-dose appointments take place at the new site, located off Nixon Drive.**

The mega-site is located within East Gate Square (adjacent to the Moorestown mall) and can be found near Home Depot, Party City, and Ross in what was once an A.C. Moore arts and crafts store.

The mega-site *only* provides previously scheduled second-dose appointments during its soft opening; public scheduling is not yet available. The official opening will take place next week. Once fully operational, the mega-site will provide pediatric vaccinations, first and second doses for individuals 12 and older who are presently unvaccinated, and booster doses for eligible adults.

For more information on booster eligibility—which expanded considerably on Nov. 19—please consult the CDC's [most recent guidance](#). Look to future issues of *Clinician Update* for mega-site scheduling, hours of operation, and additional details.

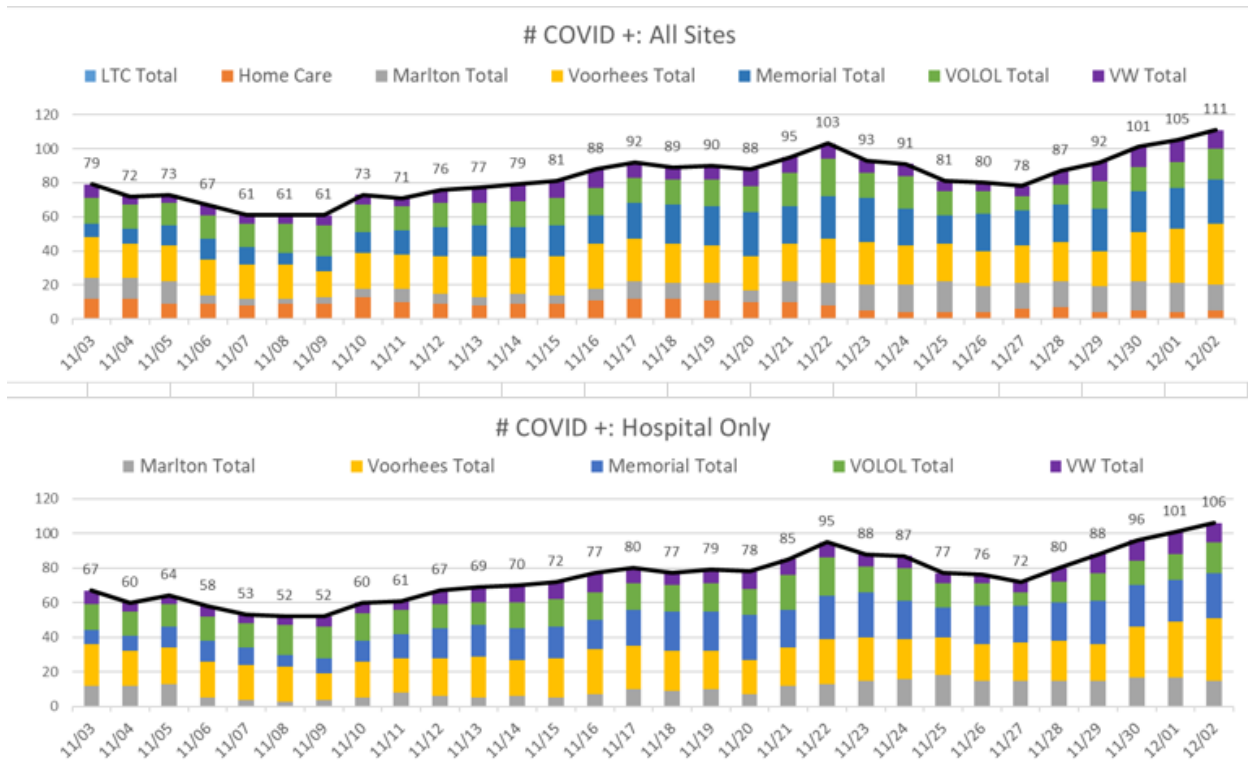
### **CDC Confirms First Case of Omicron Variant in U.S.**

#### **From the *NJHA Coronavirus Update***

The CDC has [confirmed the first case of COVID-19 caused by the Omicron variant](#) in the United States. A recent case of COVID-19 among an individual in California was caused by the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529). Genomic sequencing was conducted at the University of California, San Francisco and the sequence was confirmed at the CDC as being consistent with the Omicron variant. The individual was a traveler who returned from South Africa on Nov. 22, was fully vaccinated, and had mild symptoms that are improving. The individual is self-quarantining and has been since testing positive. Delta remains the predominant strain in the United States.

Meanwhile, [the FDA said](#) it is expediting efforts to obtain the genetic information and patient samples of the new variant and to work with vaccine manufacturers to assess the performance of existing vaccines. Officials said they expect to know more about how well the current vaccines work against this variant “in the next few weeks.” [Industry guidance was developed in February](#) to establish contingency plans for variants and fast track any needed product modifications.

### **COVID-19 Census**



### Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is 1.15.
- New Jersey on Thursday reported 3,591 cases, the highest single-day total since April 16, when the winter surge in cases was starting to ease.
- The total number of cases as of 3 p.m. are as follows:
  - Burlington County: 49,419 cases
  - Camden County: 62,272 cases
  - Gloucester County: 34,739 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties: 2,979.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reports 13,770,257 doses of vaccine have been administered.

### Active MyChart Users Get Out of the Hospital Faster - Data from Epic Shows Revealing Trend

Patients with an active patient portal are more likely to have shorter hospital stays, according to a new study by Epic which reviewed data focused specifically on admissions for COVID-19 and heart failure. Patients with active MyCharts had, on average, a stay half to a full day shorter than those without.

“It really represents how a much more engaged patient tends to have better outcomes overall,” said Denise Rasmussen, a registered nurse and the lead clinician on the study. She said many studies are proving this trend, and she was not surprised by the study’s findings.

A factor not measured in the study, but an inferred concern, is how the digital divide can further exasperate the social determinants of health in the community. The lack of reliable internet, for example, could affect the level of engagement of a patient. [Click here to learn more about the study.](#)

## **More Good is Better**

You may have noticed that we have been intentionally welcoming more good into our Virtua workforce lately.

Literally.

We've been saying "Hello Good!"

Many interactions these days can feel like we are on autopilot. We sort of go through the motions as we exchange words with others, watch or read the news, check our emails, and go about our duties and our day. How often do we actually take the extra few seconds to get a sense of what's truly around us and inside of other people—especially the good?

According to science, our brains are biased toward negativity. It's why we are most likely to notice annoying qualities in others or remember what went wrong instead of right.

Seeing the good around us and in others is a simple and powerful way to feel happier and more connected, and to become more present in the world.

**And, because seeing good requires a purposeful pause, it allows us to see the good we can create for others when we are more mindful about everything from their safety to what would truly matter to them.**

Seeing and welcoming good is about moving beyond intentions to *actions*. It's about keeping our eyes, and hearts, open and curious.

As you look for someone or something to say "*Hello Good*" to today, take a look at the good *WE* created together over just the last few weeks by clicking on this [WowWE video](#), featuring Virtua clinicians doing good across the community.

And if you want to share something good about Virtua, your team, the care you have received for yourself or your family, or the impact you see Virtua making here in the community, use the hashtag #HelloGood in your social media posts. You might see it featured on our [web page](#) where others come to find out more about the *Here-for-Good* spirit that makes Virtua so special.

- Chrisie Scott, *SVP & Chief Marketing Officer*

## **Hello Good Happenings**

### **Acts of Goodness this Holiday Season**

Every holiday season, our colleagues demonstrate that we are Here for Good by displaying Acts of Goodness in meaningful ways in our community, and this year is no different.

Recently, the Student Nurse Association hosted a cookie drive for Cathedral Kitchen in Camden, where they organized and packaged more than 1,000 cookies.

Additionally, the Support Services department is hosting a toy drive for the Marine Corp Toys for Tots. Colleagues who wish to participate can drop off a new, unwrapped toy at Support Services, 20 W. Stow Road, Suite 3, (front office) in Mt. Laurel, by Monday, Dec. 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Click to view this [online wish list](#) for infants and children up to 12 years old.

### **Sharing the *Good News***

Kudos and congratulations to Virtua colleagues for their contributions to our community and fostering a sense of camaraderie within their teams.

- Maria Emerson and Maria Francho accepted the [Children of Champions Award](#) from the New Jersey American Academy of Pediatrics for the [Virtua Pediatric Mobile Services program](#).
- The Diagnostic Radiology Quality Committee created the "X-ray Well" program, in which technologists throughout Virtua discuss ways to improve image quality. Recognition awards are awarded quarterly and annually.
- Memorial Ambulatory Surgery Center colleagues took part in safety training in the operating room. The session included identifying errors, infection control, sharps safety, and patient safety.

### **Donations Needed: Crutches, Walkers, and Canes**

Due to a global supply chain shortage, Virtua is experiencing a critical need for metal crutches, walkers, and canes. If you have any new or gently used items that you no longer require, we encourage you to donate them in support of our patients.

Donations will be accepted between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Colleagues who work evening, night, or weekend shifts can leave donated items with their department director.

- Virtua Marlton Hospital, Equipment Depot
- Virtua Mount Holly Hospital, Colleague Entrance
- Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Equipment Depot (Room 126)
- Virtua Voorhees Hospital, Equipment Depot
- Virtua Willingboro Hospital, Administration
- Virtua Corporate Office at 303 Lippincott Drive, Marlton, Welcome Center
- Virtua Health & Wellness Center - Berlin, Emergency Dept., outside of Community Room
- Virtua Health & Wellness Center - Camden, Lobby

Please contact security or administration at your preferred facility for additional details.

Click to [view the flyer](#) and post in your departments.

### **Visit with Virtua's Furry Friends**

Virtua's Visiting Paws pet therapy program invites colleagues to spend quality time with furry friends at Virtua's hospitals. These pups are Here for Good and here for belly scratches. View the schedule below.

#### **Virtua Voorhees Hospital**

**Thursday, Dec. 2, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.**

Holman C Conference Room

**Virtua Marlton Hospital**

**Thursday, Dec. 9,** 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Conference Room next to the Starbucks

**Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital**

**Thursday, Dec. 9 and 16,** 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Wellness Room and Lobby

**Virtua Mount Holly Hospital**

**Friday, Dec. 17,** 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Front and Back Conference Center, First Floor

**Virtua Willingboro Hospital**

**Thursday, Dec. 23,** 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Conference Room A

Please connect with Katelynn Hewitt at [mhewitt@virtua.org](mailto:mhewitt@virtua.org) or call x72676 with any questions. Click to [view the flyer](#).