

Clinician Update July 1, 2021

Happy Anniversary!

Virtua and Lourdes Health System Came Two-Gether Two Years Ago Today

Virtua and Lourdes Health System joined on **July 1, 2019**, establishing Virtua as the most deeply rooted and comprehensive health system in South Jersey. With our combined strengths, we offer so much, so close, helping to create healthier lives for all.



Happy Two-Year Anniversary!

Special Message from Leadership Regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine

In an email sent from President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin yesterday, June 30, Virtua leadership has determined that we will require all Virtua colleagues and medical staff members be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by **September 15, 2021**. Virtua will consider requests for reasonable accommodation based on religious beliefs or disability/medical condition on an individualized basis.

With the vaccine mega site winding down its service, we will provide new dates and vaccine locations next week along with a scheduling process so that unvaccinated colleagues can be accommodated in advance of this requirement. **If you have already received a COVID-19 vaccine, you do not need to be vaccinated again, and at this time, no booster shot is required.**

Virtua colleagues who receive the COVID-19 vaccine from a non-Virtua location must submit their vaccination information via email to: covidvaccinedocumentation@virtua.org and include your employee ID number and a photo of the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card.

For additional information, please refer to the message distributed via email to the Virtua medical staff on **June 30**.

Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey stands at 0.97.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reports 9,899,849 doses of vaccine have been administered.
- The total number of cases as of 3 p.m. are as follows:
 - Burlington County: 38,400 cases
 - Camden County: 49,185 cases
 - Gloucester County: 26,677 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties: 2,642.

It's Fun to be Done!

Summer has arrived, and people are eager to participate in favorite summer activities that were put on hold last year. If you or your patients are looking to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the Burlington County Mega-Site, please note that it will be closed for the Independence Day Holiday from July 2 to 5. The mega-site's hours of operation for the following week are as follows:

Tuesday, July 6, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 7, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, July 9, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please Note: Beginning **Friday, July 2**, the mega-site will only administer **unscheduled, walk-up first doses**. Anyone who receives a first dose at the mega-site after today will need to get their second dose at a different location. Fortunately, vaccines are readily available throughout the region. Consult the [State of New Jersey Vaccine Locator](#) for a full list. **However**, if you already received your first dose prior to July 2, your scheduled second dose will be administered at the mega-site.

Lung Cancer Breakthrough at Virtua—New Robot Accesses Small, Hard-to-Reach Tumors

Virtua is the second health care organization in New Jersey to offer new, robot-assisted technology that enables doctors to catch lung cancer early—when it's most curable.

The robot-assisted bronchoscopy system enables our doctors to reach 80 to 90% of suspicious lung nodules—versus just 60% with traditional (non-robotic) bronchoscopy. The system also reduces the need for more invasive approaches.

Virtua interventional pulmonologist **Dr. Syed Riaz** has already used the technology at Virtua Marlton. Patients will typically receive the procedure after a low-dose CT finds a suspicious area, even if they don't have any signs of lung cancer yet.

At the [Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program](#), nurse navigators help patients schedule their CT scan. If the scan shows a suspicious area, the navigator can arrange a robot-assisted bronchoscopy to check for cancer. And if cancer is found, the patient can receive care from the program's pulmonologists, oncologists, and surgeons.

To learn more about this breakthrough technology, click to read this [article](#) on virtua.org by Dr. Riaz or [feature story](#) on NJ101.5.

Enhanced Access for Health Care for the Military: Virtua Launches “Here to Serve”

Virtua is enhancing accessibility of its services for those in the military, both active-duty members and veterans, particularly those stationed at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, as they depend upon their health to be mission ready. The program is called “Here to Serve,” and it features a personal navigator assisting in coordinating the steps of care, from appointments to testing, to overall wellness.

Dr. Reg Blaber, Virtua executive vice president and chief clinical officer, served as a U.S. Army internist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Fort Benning, and Fort Meade, achieving the rank of major. “To our military heroes — active duty, retired, and your families — you’ve always been ready to serve our nation,” he said. “And we’re here to serve you by delivering a personalized health experience that’s effective, efficient, and readily available.”

For those serving on active duty at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, certain conditions requiring testing and approvals can impact deployment. This is why Virtua is providing expedited access to specialty care supplementing the services available on base. Conveniently located across from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst military base, Virtua Health & Wellness Center - New Hanover is a premier outpatient facility offering advanced medical imaging and physical therapy in a comfortable, caring environment. Virtua is streamlining the process, fast-tracking authorizations and obtaining same-day appointments when necessary.

For more details, visit Virtua.org/HeretoServe.

Virtua Introduces OUT at Virtua

Virtua is proud to introduce our newest Colleague Community: OUT at Virtua. OUT stands for Open, United & Transformative, and will be committed to the LGBTQ+ community by opening minds, standing united in care, and advancing together through transformative action. OUT will be led by executive ambassador **Paul Minnick** and chair/co-chair **Shane Lipscomb** and **Alana Tessa Merry**.

We invite all colleagues to watch this [introductory video](#), featuring members of OUT at Virtua as they talk about the significance of this moment.

Additionally, on **Wednesday, July 28** at 5 p.m., join President and CEO **Dennis Pullin** along with members of OUT to learn about the group’s mission and goals, and how you can get involved.

Click to [register](#) or visit the Virtua Learning System and search for *OUT at Virtua Kick-off Event*.

Five Stars for Virtua Voorhees Hospital

This year, Virtua’s hospitals have collectively received more than 400 positive reviews online, and their Google star ratings have all increased.

Today, we share a glowing five-star review from **Jennifer H.**, a patient at Virtua Voorhees Hospital:

“I was seen in urgent care and the emergency room. I was very ill and ended up having emergency surgery later that evening. The care and concern I received from my doctors, nurses, and all ancillary staff was beyond my expectations. The team that cared for me was collaborative, communicative, and compassionate. I was part of the decision-making process for my plan of care and recovery. It is

recommended that I have a follow-up surgery, and I will definitely schedule it at Virtua. I look forward to another great experience.”

As we move into the second half of the year, we encourage you to continue spreading the word about gratitude and The Lasting Impact Project. We invite you to visit foundation.virtua.org/gratitude to learn more, as well as visit the [Brand Hub](#) for helpful materials to share with your patients.

Gratitude Goes on for Years

Michael and Sarah Dillon recently made a gift to support Virtua’s neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), expressing how grateful they are for the care Virtua provided to their son, Jimmy.

Back in 2015, Jimmy arrived 10 weeks early, weighing in at 2 pounds, 12 ounces, and spent a good deal of time in Virtua Voorhees Hospital’s NICU. The Dillons felt supported by the nurses—particularly Maryann McClarnon—and felt confident in the entire NICU team as their educators and advocates. The care team constantly kept them informed and supported during an extremely stressful and emotional time.

Jimmy is now 6 years old! He just finished kindergarten with flying colors, and is an active, thriving child who plays baseball, flag football, and soccer. He also loves skiing, riding his bike, and playing piano.

When life-changing care is delivered, the impact lives on for years and years.

Nurse Maryann McClarnon and the entire NICU team exemplify Virtua’s Culture of WE, placing the patient at the center of everything we do and demonstrating service excellence. We are proud of them and grateful to them.

Visit virtua.org/gratitude to learn more about how we invite our community to make a lasting impact through philanthropy.

Happy Anniversary, Pediatric Mobile Services

Yesterday, Virtua celebrated the three-year anniversary of its Pediatric Mobile Services program by unveiling the vehicle’s new, kid-friendly exterior. To date, the program has provided more than 6,500 children with free health screenings in communities across Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties.

The event —held outside the Virtua Health & Wellness Center - Camden—honored philanthropist Sam Lacroce of the Joseph Lacroce Foundation, whose generosity helps sustain the program. Joining Virtua for the occasion were Bishop Dennis Sullivan, Camden Mayor Victor Carstarphen, the Trumpet Chics, as well as two dozen children from daycare centers served by the Mobile Pediatric Services team.

Having a Ruff Day? Visit with Virtua’s Furry Friends

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

Virtua Marlton Hospital

Thursday, July 1, 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside at the Main Entrance.

Virtua Voorhees Hospital

Wednesday, July 7, 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside at the Cafeteria Patio.

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

Thursday, July 15, 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside at the Main Entrance.

Virtua Memorial Hospital

Friday, July 23, 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside at the Main Entrance.

Virtua Willingboro Hospital

Thursday, July 29, 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside at the Main Entrance.

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

Help Your Community by Giving Blood

The American Red Cross recently recognized Virtua for its continued commitment to saving lives throughout the pandemic. In 2020, we doubled the amount of blood drives we hosted and collected an additional 1,000 units of blood than the previous year. In total, 2,387 units of blood were collected at Virtua-sponsored blood drives.

We invite you to join Virtua colleagues by helping the American Red Cross maintain a sufficient blood supply. The Red Cross will host several blood drives at various Virtua locations in the days ahead, including:

Friday, July 2

Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Voorhees, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 7

Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Berlin, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday, July 23

Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Moorestown, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, July 26

Virtua Memorial Hospital, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, July 30

Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Voorhees, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 2

Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Moorestown, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It is quick and easy to sign up for blood drives. Appointments are preferred. Click to [sign up](#) and use sponsor code Virtua.