

Clinician Update
July 22, 2021

Coming Soon: Updated Badges with Clinician Credentials

This month, the New Jersey Health Care Transparency Act takes effect, which includes new requirements for the identification badges of health care professionals. Specifically:

“When providing in-person care, a health care professional must communicate the specific professional license and professional degree the professional holds. This information may be communicated through a nametag or embroidered identification. Such identification must include, at a minimum, the full name of the health care professional and the professional license and degree issued to them. If providing direct patient care at a hospital, the health care professional’s identification must also include a recent photograph. These requirements do not apply to telehealth or telemedicine services.”

To comply with the Act and ensure we create environments for meaningful patient-provider interactions, Virtua will reissue badges to colleagues, as needed. Please see the details below:

Who is getting a new badge?

All Virtua physicians, dentists, podiatrists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, residents, and psychologists. The Transparency Act does **not** extend to nurses and other individuals with advanced training and education.

How can these colleagues get a new badge?

Badges will be delivered during staff meetings, via inner-office mail, or made available for pick up at Virtua facilities. The leaders of impacted divisions and departments will receive a specific distribution plan and timeline. Colleagues do not need to take any immediate action at this time.

A Note from Virtua Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Reg Blaber: The Mega-Site Was a Mega-Success

The moment I stepped into the vacant department store that would become the Burlington County COVID-19 Vaccine Mega-Site, I knew we had our work cut out for us. But I never doubted the amazing abilities of the Virtua team.

Tomorrow, July 23, the mega-site will officially close its doors in order to refocus energies on a more localized approach to vaccine distribution. This shift in strategy provides us with a moment to reflect on the hard work and dedication that took place over the past seven months.

Here is a brief overview of our collective achievements at the mega-site:

- **A Team Effort:** Thank you to all of our colleagues, as well as our partners from the state, county, New Jersey National Guard, FEMA, and several other groups and agencies, for coming together and serving our community. Everyone pulled their weight in support of public health.
- **Lasting Impact:** The mega-site provided nearly 400,000 vaccine doses to our community—a monumental feat. In fact, New Jersey is among the national leaders when it comes to vaccination. We can proudly take ownership of a small-but-meaningful portion of this accomplishment.
- **Here for Good:** We lived up to our values by considering the entire experience for our guests. We planned special events for area high schools, brought in live music to boost the energy, and

even created a sensory room that provided extra consideration to those with special needs. In other words, we truly walked the walk.

While this chapter has come to an end, our work is far from over. We must continue to promote the COVID-19 vaccine as safe and effective in order to continue saving lives.

To all our Virtua colleagues, I am incredibly proud and endlessly grateful. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Click to enjoy a [photo slideshow of mega-site memories](#) submitted by Virtua colleagues and various mega-site partners.

A Safety Message from Virtua EVP and COO Dr. John M. Matsinger

Yesterday, Dr. Matsinger sent the following message on the disturbing upward tick in COVID-19 cases and rate of transmission in our community. He detailed how we can use high-reliability tools to do our part to stop the spread by ensuring that we continue to wear PPE appropriately.

“There has been a significant increase in the community positivity rate. At the same time, we have observed colleagues across the system not wearing PPE correctly. *This is a serious safety issue.* We are asking that you speak up, cross check, and stop the line if you see someone who is not wearing appropriate PPE. We need to get this right so that we all remain safe.”

Dr. Matsinger provided the following reminders:

- **Universal Masking:** For all colleagues when entering a building where patient care is delivered
- **Universal Pandemic Precautions:** Ear-loop mask and eye protection (goggles or face mask) with every patient encounter
- **Quarantine Isolation Precautions:** N-95 mask with an ear-loop mask over it every time in a patient room, with gown, gloves, and eye protection

Together, we can keep Virtua Health and our community safe by consistently following protocols.

Colleague Vaccine Campaign Update

Thank you for doing your part to encourage COVID-19 vaccine participation among our colleagues. Virtua is among a [growing list of health systems](#) requiring vaccination for all colleagues, with additional organizations enacting policies each week.

For colleagues who need to get their shots, Virtua is offering the following dates and locations for colleagues to receive the Pfizer vaccine:

Tuesday, July 27: Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

Friday, July 30: Virtua Mount Holly (Memorial) Hospital

Tuesday, Aug. 3: Barry D. Brown Health Education Center in Voorhees

Thursday, Aug. 5: Barry D. Brown Health Education Center in Voorhees

Colleagues can schedule a vaccine appointment by calling the Virtua Access Center at **856-325-3744** or emailing covidmegasite@virtua.org. When colleagues sign up for a first dose, they will also schedule the date/location of their second-dose appointments.

Colleagues are also welcome to receive the vaccine at a non-Virtua location—such as a store or pharmacy—and submit documentation/proof to covidvaccinedocumentation@virtua.org.

Remember, in order to meet the deadline of being fully vaccinated by **Wednesday, Sept. 15**, colleagues must receive a first dose of the Pfizer vaccine no later than **Wednesday, Aug. 25**. Those who want the Moderna vaccine will need a first dose even earlier, by **Wednesday, Aug. 18**.

If you haven't done so already, you can use these links to review the [Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccine policy](#) and [supporting FAQs](#).

Note: In addition to employees, Virtua's vaccine policy applies to contractors, vendors, students, and other individuals who fall under the definition of healthcare personnel. Leaders can anticipate a specific communication from Human Resources this week regarding the process and messaging for these audiences.

Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- For the first time in a month, COVID-19 hospitalizations in New Jersey rose above 300. In addition, new cases are at their highest levels since May. These increases are overwhelmingly among the unvaccinated.
- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is once more creeping upward, and is now 1.4 with a corresponding increase in hospital admissions across the state and in nearby Pennsylvania. This is New Jersey's highest reported rate of transmission since last November.
- The total number of cases as of 3 p.m. are as follows:
 - Burlington County: 38,678 cases
 - Camden County: 49,547 cases
 - Gloucester County: 26,825 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties: 2,633.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reports 10,301,669 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Cures Act – Language Choice an Important New Opportunity

We are now almost four months into the enactment of the Cures Act, which opened the door for patients to have electronic access to their medical notes and test results. As you know firsthand, clinicians' notes remain a vital tool for health care providers to track their work and communicate with each other. No doubt, the quick online access represents a sea change — for patients and clinicians alike. It also offers an opportunity for clinicians to consider and re-evaluate their use of language as they develop notes. *STAT*, a respected national medical news has posted [this article](#) on how the health care industry is progressing with open note requirements, and what are we learning. Remember, we continue to make available a compilation of resources to help you navigate this new process. Simply go to the [Digital 411 Physician Help Link](#) on the Vine and click [Cures Act Resources](#).

Save the Date – to Walk!

As a way of promoting healthy hearts, Virtua is a sponsor of the American Heart Association Fall Heart Walk to take place **Saturday, Oct. 23** at RiverWinds in West Deptford. "It's a great opportunity to encourage the great health benefits of simply getting out and walking," says Dodi Iannaco, nurse

practitioner, Virtua Urgent Care. She will be one of many Virtua colleagues bringing family and friends, and even pets.

Heart Walk has always been about coming together, getting hearts pumping, honoring survivors – and having fun along the way. As Virtua teams are forming, feel free to join one or create one of your own. Together, we will be representing the overall Virtua team with the singular cause of promoting good heart health. [Click here](#) to register, and remember to join company Virtua Health. No financial commitment is necessary to participate, and Virtua shirts will be provided.

Register Today: OUT at Virtua Kickoff Event

Our newest Colleague Community, OUT at Virtua, will hold its kickoff event on **Wednesday, July 28** at 5 p.m. Join President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin and with members of OUT at Virtua in a facilitated discussion where they will talk about their goals and mission and answer questions. 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.

Join by [registering here](#) or visit the Virtua Learning System and search for *OUT at Virtua Kick-off Event*.

July is Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Your mental well-being is just as important to your quality of life as your physical health, and, often, life's challenges make it difficult to keep everything in balance. Everyday demands and expectations can be overwhelming, and early warning signs such as stress, anxiety, fatigue, and isolation, may not be easily recognized. According to a [2019 study](#) conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health, one in five adults live with a mental illness, with a prevalence among adults of diverse ethnicities. Regardless of your place on the continuum of mental health, Virtua is committed to offering all colleagues a sense of belonging by providing a warm, welcoming, and supportive environment.

To help bring awareness to mental health, we have provided a brief, 15-minute self-paced module titled "[Accepting Yourself and Others: Mental Health at Work.](#)"

Along with this module, colleagues may access our [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\) Carebridge](#), and find more resources at [Virtua's Behavioral & Mental Health](#) page.

If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional distress or struggling with symptoms of mental illness, know that you are not alone.

Virtua in the News

- **COVID-19 Cases Rising Due to Delta Variant** - Dr. Jen Khelil, chief medical officer, discusses the jump in coronavirus cases nationwide and the importance of getting vaccinated in this *NBC 10* story. "We are still in a place of vulnerability where we could see a surge," said Dr. Khelil. Watch [here](#).
- **New Jersey Hospital Association Recognizes Health Care Heroes** - The newly created NJHA Awards honor the compassion, leadership, and heroics of health care workers and organizations during the pandemic. Two awards recognized Virtua: The Advocacy Action Award was given posthumously to Fred Hipp Jr., former vice president of government relations. The Excellence in Patient Experience award went to Virtua for outstanding work in vaccinating the community (see above). Read [here](#).

- **Who's Who in Health Care** - Dr. Reg Blaber, EVP and chief clinical officer, tops this list of 11 South Jersey health care leaders. The practicing cardiologist is recognized for his leadership during the pandemic, as well as his guidance of the former Lourdes Health System and creation of the largest heart program in South Jersey. Read *South Jersey Biz's* online edition [here](#) and the digital magazine [here](#).

New Parents Express Gratitude for Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Delivery Team

Terryn and Jacob Pond recently made a gift in honor of the care team that helped deliver their daughter, Everest. They shared:

"Every single person who cared for us was exceptionally kind and experienced. Special thanks to Jessi, Brenda, Jamioka, Dr. Tran, Teddie, and Trudy. Jessi gave me the best pep talk of my life as I was trying to get through contractions and started losing my nerve. She was incredibly kind and helpful. The outstanding care we received, and Teddie's sweet and thoughtful gesture of giving Everest a special hat with a bow, made our birthing experience beautiful, bearable, and lovely."

Congratulations to our colleagues Teddie Belz, Jamioka Daniels, Trudy Kosek, Jessi Schwarz, Brenda Stevenson, and Dr. Baohuong Tran on this honor. We are so proud of your commitment to our Culture of WE, placing the patient at the center of everything, and providing excellent clinical care. What a wonderful way for baby Everest to enter the world!

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

Reminder: Skype for Business is Retiring

As you may have seen in your Virtua email inbox, the Information Technology (IT) team has announced that Microsoft is retiring Skype for Business. Access to the program will be removed on **Wednesday, July 28**.

IT encourages all colleagues to use Microsoft Teams moving forward.

There are many benefits to Teams! Just to name a few:

- You can search across all your teams, including chat history, posts, and files.
- Teams lets you resume a conversation at any time or send a file even when someone is offline.
- Teams can be accessed from your computer, mobile phone, or a web browser.

To Note:

- Past conversations, calls, and voicemails will be in the Conversation History folder in Outlook.
- The same Skype for Business contacts will be available in Teams under the Calls tab.
- Any Skype for Business meetings you've scheduled will need to be recreated using Microsoft Teams.
- Skype meetings from outside organizations will continue to be accessible via web-based Skype.
- Microsoft Teams is already installed on your machine. However, if it is not installed, please go to the [Software Center](#) and find Microsoft Teams to perform the installation.

Microsoft Teams Resources:

- [Teams Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [How to schedule a Teams meeting within Outlook](#)

- [How to schedule a Teams meeting within the Teams app](#)

Please visit our [IT Customer Portal](#) to search for additional knowledge articles.