

Clinician Update

July 29, 2021

Celebrate the Return to LIVE!

Live music is back! Live Nation is offering Virtua colleagues [\\$20 All-In Tickets](#) to great outdoor concerts at the BB&T Pavilion in Camden. Enjoy music from artists including Jimmy Buffett, Korn, Jason Aldean, Kings of Leon, Maroon 5, Megadeath, and more. Click to [purchase tickets](#).

Virtua Health encourages concert goers to attend outdoor events safely by getting fully vaccinated and exercising good judgment regarding social distancing, mask-wearing, and hand hygiene wishes. We also want to thank our clinicians for their continued efforts to encourage COVID-19 vaccine participation among their teams, especially as our deadline for mandatory vaccination is fast approaching. Upcoming dates and locations for colleagues to receive the Pfizer vaccine from Virtua are as follows:

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

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

Thursday, August 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**.

In addition to employees, Virtua's vaccine policy applies to contractors, vendors, students, and other individuals who fall under the definition of healthcare personnel. Last week, the American Hospital Association [issued its endorsement](#) of health system's enacting mandatory employee vaccine policies. About 96 percent of the nation's doctors are already fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to a [survey conducted by the American Medical Association](#).

Five Stars for the Burlington County Mega-Site

On **July 23**, the Burlington County COVID-19 Vaccine Mega-Site discontinued operations—after administering nearly 400,000 doses to the community. The site's online google listing was a vehicle for gratitude and achieved record-breaking results. In just over six months, the mega-site received 741 five-star Google reviews. Today, we share one of those five-star reviews from Marilyn D.:

I was in and out of there so quickly that it blew my mind! I have to give Virtua a high-five on the fantastic job they are doing. The operation is efficient and clean, and the staff are friendly and professional. I was nervous for nothing because you can barely feel the needle. I had a wonderful experience and am so glad that I did this!

With a nearly perfect 4.9 Google rating, the Burlington County Mega-Site was a prime example of the results that can be achieved when Virtua's Guiding Principles are combined with gratitude and online feedback. Thank you to everyone who worked and volunteered at the mega-site from January to July. Together, we are making South Jersey safe.

Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- COVID-19 hospitalizations in New Jersey rose to 480, the most since June 2. Hospitalizations have increased for five straight days and are up 64% since a month ago.
- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is now 1.5, remaining near the highest number since the first few weeks of the pandemic in spring 2020 when testing was scarce.
- The total number of cases as of 3 p.m. are as follows:
 - Burlington County: 38,890 cases
 - Camden County: 49,766 cases
 - Gloucester County: 26,974 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties: 2,665.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reports 10,430,884 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Virtua in the News

Dennis Pullin Urges Vaccinations, Shares Health Tips with B101.1 - President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE, joined B101.1's Morning Show host Bill Tafrow to discuss the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccine, maintaining overall health, and keeping up with important screenings and appointments. Watch [here](#).

The Revolution in Cancer Care - Cancer diagnosis and treatment are constantly advancing, and Virtua is often among the region's first to embrace these innovations. In this *SJ Magazine* story, Dr. Punitha Shivaprasad, gastroenterologist, discusses groundbreaking procedures to diagnose and stage hard-to-reach cancers of the gastrointestinal tract and pancreas. Read [here](#).

Mega-Site Celebrates its Last Vaccine Recipients and Vaccine Heroes - Virtua and our partners administered the Burlington County Mega-Site's final vaccines last Friday and held a celebration for staff and volunteers. Many media outlets covered the event, including [Fox 29](#) and the [Courier-Post](#). For facts and figures about the mega-site's accomplishments, click [here](#).

Two Virtua Hospitals Ranked among the Top 10 in the State - *U.S. News and World Report* has named Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital and Virtua Voorhees Hospital among the best in New Jersey. The magazine also gave the hospitals high marks for a range of conditions and specialties—from heart problems and diabetes to orthopedics and colon surgery. Read the *Patch* story [here](#) and the full *U.S. News* list of Best Hospitals for 2021-2022 [here](#).

Virtua Joins Philadelphia Business Journal's Employers List - *Virtua ranked #5 in the Philadelphia Business Journal's Employers List, which includes the biggest employers in the Philadelphia metro area. The list is ranked by number of local employees. Click to view [the list](#).*

A Family's Gift Celebrates a Milestone

There are so many ways to celebrate a baby's first birthday. But the Patel family knew that a party or cake wasn't the most important thing on the list. They needed to do something really special.

In honor of their daughter Kyra's first birthday, they made a gift to support the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Virtua Voorhees Hospital.

In July 2020, Kyra was born at 25 weeks, weighing just 1.5 pounds. Kyra spent five months in the NICU. It was here that Kirti and Kumarjeet Patel first saw their daughter's sweet face. It was here that Kyra fought hard to grow stronger. It was here that the NICU care team brought their clinical expertise and the power of their love to help Kyra thrive.

The Patels made a gift to ensure that Virtua's youngest patients will be able to experience the same care that Kyra did. In addition to their thoughtful philanthropy, the Patels visited her care team at the NICU.

Everyone was so happy to see Kyra! She is pictured here walking into the arms of NICU nurse Kim Malatesta.

Thank you to our NICU care team for offering the most advanced expertise in the complex care of the tiniest and most vulnerable babies, provided with the greatest compassion. You are a wonderful example of Virtua's Culture of WE!

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

Rhonda Jordan Honored as a "Diversity Leader in Business"

Congratulations to Virtua EVP and chief human resources officer Rhonda Jordan for being named as a Diversity Leader in Business by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*.

Diversity, equity and inclusion have become top of mind for businesses across the country over the last year. In an already diverse region, Greater Philadelphia companies have a wealth of talent from different backgrounds who are making an impact on the region and its business community through their leadership.

Celebrating that breadth of diversity, the *Philadelphia Business Journal* is proud to honor Rhonda Jordan and 24 other diverse business leaders who have demonstrated success in their respective fields and made significant contributions through philanthropic endeavors over the past 12 to 18 months.

Click to view the [list of honorees](#). Congratulations, Rhonda!

WE Applaud the Virtua Berlin RISE Team

The RISE team at the Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Berlin hosted the unveiling of the facility's updated Serenity Garden, where Virtua colleagues can now relax and decompress under the brand new canopy and light fixtures. At the event, colleagues marveled at the grounds' lush greenery and enjoyed healthy smoothies. The team shared the smoothie recipe with colleagues and plans to give away free smoothies once a quarter.

Diane Mohr, director of nursing for long term care, says, “As health care workers, we give so much of ourselves to our patients, residents, and family members that we often forget to take time for ourselves. The pandemic has surely tested our commitment to our vocation. The Serenity Garden offers a place of peace and tranquility. It is a place where we can recharge, meditate, pray, read, enjoy a meal, or connect with a colleague. Thank you, RISE team, for such a beautiful place.”

The members of the Virtua Berlin RISE team include Mark Bledy, Cheri Burks, Eileen Hertneck Coyle, Elizabeth Hickey, Lauren Kienholz, Kathy Ore, Stephanie Reiff, Kasie White, AnneMarie Worthington, and Charles Packer. The human resources facilitator is Angela McNichol and the leaders are Dawn Peluso and Denise Redmond.

From the July 2021 Safety Matters Newsletter: Confusion Among 1:1 Observers

Hospitals across the country have been challenged with caring for the increasing numbers of patients who are assessed to be a high risk for suicide or violence, and Virtua is no exception.

The standard of care for patient safety is to assign a 1:1 observer to a patient assessed to be at high risk for self-harm/suicide or violent behaviors. The observer is expected to maintain the patient in his/her sight at all times and intervene immediately if the patient attempts any self-harm/violent behaviors. However, observers also sit with patients who are considered at risk for falls or confused behavior, which has led to misunderstandings about the role and responsibilities of observers in different situations.

During root cause analyses (RCAs) of several recent near-miss events at Virtua, we identified safety concerns due to observers who were unsure whether they were being assigned to observe the patient due to risk of self-harm/violence or due to risk of falling. This is significant because observers attending patients at risk for self-harm or violence have very defined duties and must also sweep the patient’s room for unsafe objects among other safety steps.

As a result of these RCAs, Virtua is in the process of implementing two different documentation forms—one for suicide/self-harm observation, and one for falls observation. The forms will look very different and have clear titles and definitions to help observers understand their roles.

We are also implementing new scripting when requesting an observer. The scripting includes specific questions regarding why the observer is being assigned. Finally, nursing leaders across the system have reinforced that the nurse must communicate clearly and frequently with the observer regarding his/her role and about the patient’s status.

Click to view the [July 2021 Safety Matters newsletter](#) and share with your team members.

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

Monday, Aug. 9, 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Main Entrance Conference Room

Virtua Voorhees Hospital

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

Holman D Conference Room

Virtua Willingboro Hospital

Thursday, Aug. 19, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Conference Room To Be Determined

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

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

Wellness Room

Virtua Mount Holly Hospital

Friday, Aug. 27, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Colleague Entrance Lobby

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

Smoking Cessation Education and Support

Virtua offers a two-session educational support group to learn about the tobacco addiction process and get tools and support to help your patients need to quit smoking, including free nicotine patches, lozenges, and acupuncture.

Topics will include addiction, stress management, and developing a personal plan to quit smoking using resources and support.

This is a free program run by trained tobacco specialists, but registration is required ([register here](#)).

Dates: Wednesday, Aug. 11 and 18

Time: 5 to 6:30 p.m.