

Clinician Update

July 7, 2022

Congratulations to Virtua Clinician Awardees

We are pleased to share the good news that two Virtua colleagues have been named 2022 *NJBIZ Healthcare Heroes*: Sean McMillan, DO, sports medicine surgeon at Virtua Orthopedics & Spine and director of orthopedic sports medicine at Virtua Medical Group, and Shirley Richardson, EdD, RN, dean of Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing.

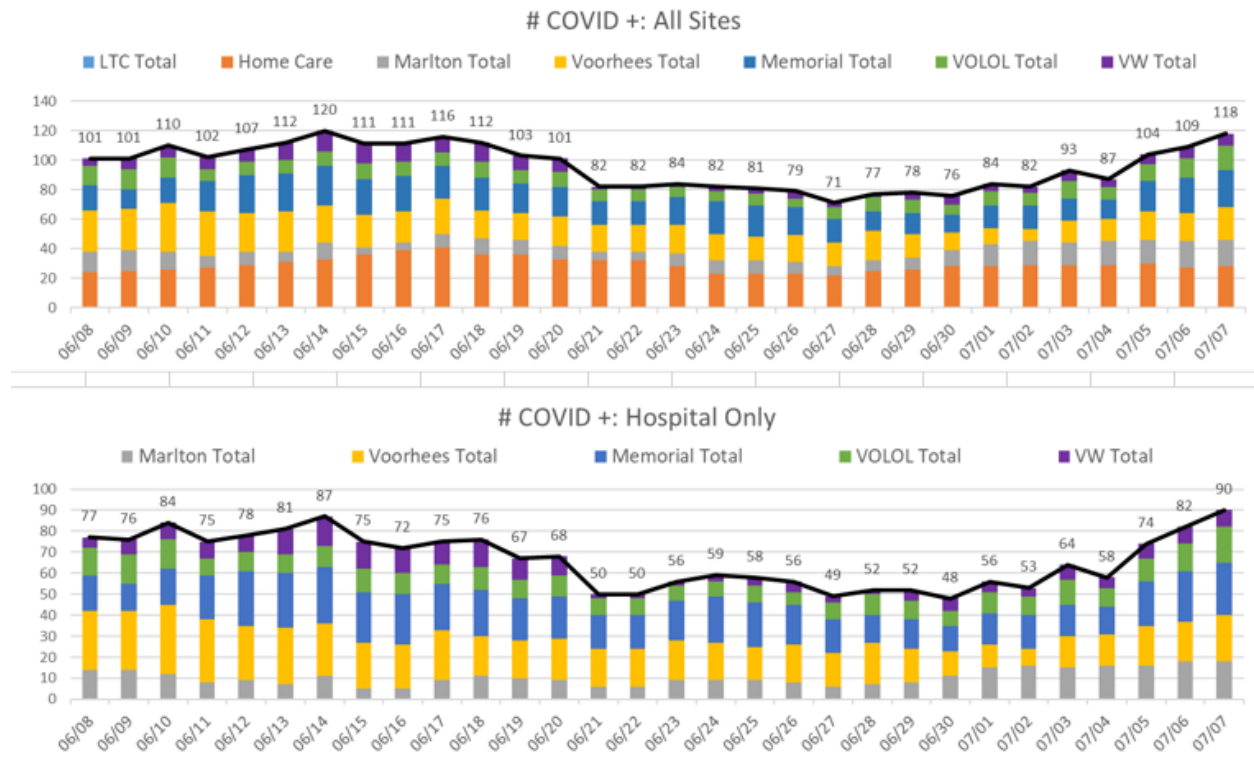
Dr. McMillan is honored as one of the Physicians of the Year—and the only recipient from South Jersey. Dr. Richardson is recognized for her individual contribution to health care education. A full list of this year's honorees can be found [here](#). They will be recognized at an awards event to be held next month.

In other awards news, Virtua cardiologist Hafeza Shaikh, DO, is featured in this month's *South Jersey Biz Magazine* (including the cover) as part of its "Who's Who in Healthcare" feature. Dr. Shaikh is the medical staff president at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes and Virtua Willingboro hospitals, and actively volunteers with the Cherry Hill Free Clinic. You can browse the digital version of the magazine [here](#).

COVID-19 News This Week

- An analysis of national death certificate data conducted by researchers at the National Cancer Institute and published this week *JAMA Internal Medicine* found that **COVID-19 was the third-leading cause of death** in the United States between March 2020 and October 2021. [More here](#).
- The New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) is offering a free, on-demand, four-module interactive course, "[Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy: Pregnant Individuals & Other Vulnerable Populations](#)." Developed with the New Jersey Perinatal Quality Collaborative, the program explores high-risk populations; possible reasons behind lack of vaccine confidence and lower vaccine uptake among specific high-risk communities (such as communities of color, pregnant individuals, individuals planning to become pregnant); and factors that put individuals at greater risk for anxiety and depression during and after pregnancy. The course addresses prevention and intervention strategies as well.
- A [new study from the CDC](#) concludes that **ensuring access to enough pediatric vaccination providers** could be a key to success in vaccinating more children against COVID. Communities with lack of access to pediatric clinics or local pharmacies show the lowest vaccination rates.
- A [survey of U.S. adults](#) by the Associated Press and the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that **Americans say their lives are "somewhat" back to pre-pandemic normal**, although they feel that certain new norms that developed during the pandemic will continue. The study identified several lifestyle changes that Americans expect to continue, including: remote work, telehealth visits, curbside pickup, and grocery deliveries.
- Research involving the health records of more than 5.6 million people treated in the VA health system, found that **repeated bouts with COVID-19 increased one's changes of facing new and lasting health problems**. In a [pre-print posted ahead of peer review](#), the study appears to be the first to investigate the impact of reinfection. The lead research, Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly, a clinical epidemiologist at Washington University in St. Louis, noted to CNN that he decided to conduct the study after observing increased reinfection among his own patients.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported today as 1.04—climbing back up once again. As noted above, hospitalizations at Virtua have risen steadily in the last week.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 60,360 cases
 - Burlington County: 94,698 cases
 - Camden County: 115,359 cases
 - Gloucester County: 59,681 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,747.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 18,165,819 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Break the Glass: Proper Record Access Reminders and Frequently Asked Questions

Break the Glass Privacy Feature Now Live in Epic

Virtua is committed to safeguarding the privacy and security of patients’ health information, including that of colleagues who receive care at Virtua facilities. To further enhance colleague privacy and help ensure compliance with Virtua’s privacy policies regarding proper medical record access, Virtua has applied Epic’s Break the Glass privacy feature to the medical records of colleagues who receive care at Virtua. The Break the Glass feature applies an additional layer of security to colleague medical records by requiring certain users to indicate the reason they need to access the colleague’s medical record before access to the record is granted.

Reminders Regarding Proper Medical Record Access

Virtua relies on colleagues to assist in its efforts to help ensure that its patients' health information is safeguarded. Accordingly, colleagues are required to comply with Virtua's [Safeguarding Protected Health Information \(PHI\) and Other Confidential Data](#) and [Confidentiality](#) policies, which address proper medical record access at all times. These policies reinforce the following:

- Colleagues must only access PHI through Virtua systems for a work-related reason. Colleagues are **not** permitted to access the medical record of a family member, friend, colleague, or any other patient, even if the individual asks them to do so, unless it is part of their job responsibility.
- Colleagues are **not** permitted to access their own medical record via Epic. Colleagues must follow the same process as any other patient and access their own health information via MyChart or by submitting a request to the health information management (HIM) department or their physician practice directly.

If you have any questions regarding proper record access, please contact Virtua's Privacy Office at privacyofficer@virtua.org.

Break the Glass Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- *What password should I use to Break the Glass?*
To break the glass, you will need to enter your Virtua Epic account password in the password field when prompted. Passwords are case sensitive.
- *What should I do if I entered my Epic password to Break the Glass and it's not working?*
It's possible that you have entered your password incorrectly. Passwords are case sensitive. Please ensure that you have accurately entered your password.

Click for [additional FAQs](#). The FAQs are also available on the VINE under Virtua News.

The Latest on Virtua's Colleague Concierge Service

To date, more than 500 colleagues have contacted the Colleague Concierge Service to help with their health care needs. The personal health navigator helps colleagues:

- Schedule timely appointments
- Select a new primary care physician or specialist
- Locate the nearest Virtua urgent care centers
- Coordinate lab or radiology tests with doctor appointments
- Identify and explain available health care services
- Register for health education classes or support groups
- Create and send appointment itineraries and reminders

The Colleague Health Care Concierge service is available for **all** Virtua colleagues—regardless of insurance coverage. Navigators can be reached at 856-325-3344 (x53344) or by emailing Colleague.Concierge@virtua.org.

RCCA Hair Boutique Helps Patients Feel Good and Look Good

The [RCCA Hair Boutique at Virtua's Samson Cancer Center](#) is not only Here for Good, it is helping patients who experience hair loss through cancer treatment **feel good and look good**.

Powered by philanthropy, the hair boutique's stylist Pietra Dunmore provides patients with professional salon services, including complimentary wigs, head wraps, and clipper cuts—all in a private and comforting setting. This year, we will serve more than 200 people.

Grateful for the boutique, patient Diane Donovan shares just how impactful this service is:

"The generosity of donors goes far beyond a dollar amount. The support and resources provided through the Penn Medicine | Virtua Cancer Program and the Hair Boutique have been a lifesaver for me. It was a relief during a stressful time of my treatment. I felt beautiful when I left Pietra and the boutique!"

We are incredibly thankful for the many colleague donors who have supported the hair boutique since it first opened in 2018! If you would like to support this service or another impactful fund at Virtua, you can make an early gift to this year's Give for Good campaign at GiveToVirtua.org/colleagues.

Upcoming Events

Lanterns on the Green: Asian Music and Dance

July 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

All colleagues and their friends and family are welcome to join the VirtuAsia Colleague Community for the "Lanterns on the Green: Asian Music and Dance" event at the Perkins Center for the Arts in Moorestown. The event will feature performances from the Korean School of Southern New Jersey and the Reaksmey Sareypheap Khmer Dance Troupe, as well as an origami lantern-making project and light refreshments.

To note:

- The event will take place on the Perkins Center for the Arts Evergreen lawn at 395 Kings Highway, Moorestown.
- Limited parking is available in the parking lot. Additional parking is available along Camden Avenue and Kings Highway.
- We encourage you to bring a picnic blanket.

Mental Health and Well-Being

July 20, 5 to 6 p.m.

Join our Black and African-American Colleague Community (BAACC) to learn more about how to keep your mental health in its best shape. Mental health determines how you're able to operate psychologically, emotionally, and socially among others.

This event will highlight risk factors and signs that may indicate mental distress, as well as improve psychological wellness using appropriate measures.

There is limited space for this virtual event, which promotes dialogue within a safe, supported space. Click to [register for the event](#).

Check out and register for these upcoming events:

Monday, Aug. 8: [Women's Maternal Health](#)

Wednesday, Aug. 10: [Advanced Care Planning \(Estate Planning\)](#)

Wednesday, Aug. 17: [Advanced Care Planning \(End of Life Preparedness\)](#)