

Clinician Update

March 10, 2022

Clinician Communication Check-in: Take Our Survey and Share Your Thoughts

It's been a while since we've had a chance to check in with our clinicians. We strive to keep our messaging timely and relevant, and we want to be sure we are giving you news in ways that work in your busy lives. Our goal is to always keep you informed—and to do this effectively and efficiently. We realize your hectic schedules and the need to be strategic in how we best accomplish this. So we can better serve you, [please take this quick survey](#) (less than 5 minutes) to help us help you.

The survey closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23. Thank you in advance for your insight.

Feeling the Love at Virtua Health

Although the month of February passed in a *heartbeat*, Virtua Health colleagues are still spreading the love and sharing the good throughout our organization. Click to view the latest [Wow-WE video](#).

See the good? Share the good! Share your special moments with us by emailing hellogood@virtua.org and your good times may be featured in an upcoming Wow-WE video.

Compliance with COVID-19 Booster Requirement Extended to April 11

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy's Executive Order 283 requiring health care workers—including most Virtua colleagues and contractors—to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot has been extended. Health care workers must now receive the booster by Monday, April 11 or within three weeks (21 calendar days) of becoming eligible for a booster, whichever is later.

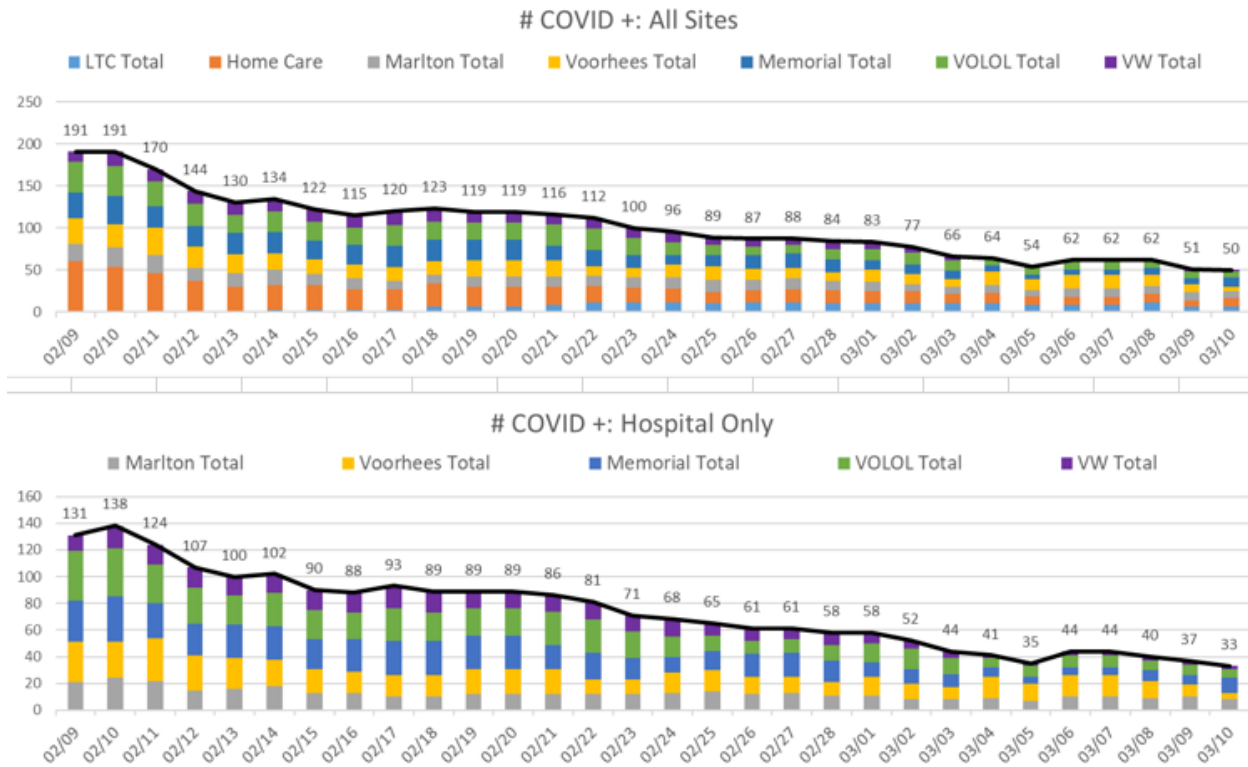
April 11 will now be the compliance deadline for an initial group of colleagues, with the rest of our colleagues becoming eligible at various dates over the next several months (depending on when they completed their initial vaccine series; what type of vaccine they received for the initial series; and whether they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days).

Hundreds of emails providing proof of vaccination have been sent to covidvaccinedocumentation@virtua.org each day over the past few weeks. We encourage you and your team members to continue sending in proof of vaccination so that you are accounted for.

Compliance: Beginning Tuesday, April 12, Human Resources will conduct a thorough reconciliation to determine who is eligible for the booster, covered by the Executive Order, and who has not yet complied. Additionally, Virtua will confirm COVID-19 positive status during this time, as individuals will have up to 90 days post-infection date to get their booster shot.

Upon completion of the reconciliation process, individuals who are deemed to be in a non-compliant status will receive a direct email communication (with a copy to their manager) notifying the colleague that they may be in a non-compliant status, and must come into compliance immediately. Continued non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported today as 0.85.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 54,351
 - Burlington County: 82,524 cases
 - Camden County: 103,409 cases
 - Gloucester County: 54,264 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,539.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 16,932,629 doses of vaccine have been administered.

National Kidney Month

March is National Kidney Month, and the kidney care team at Virtua Advanced Transplant & Organ Health are focused on raising awareness for chronic kidney disease (CKD) and kidney health.

To help address the two biggest risk factors for CKD—diabetes and high blood pressure—we’ve created these articles that you can share with your patients to provide tips for better managing both conditions and keeping your kidneys healthy.

- [High Blood Pressure and Chronic Kidney Disease](#)
- [10 Smart Ways to Manage Your Diabetes](#)

Additionally, we encourage everyone to take our kidney health assessment at virtua.org/CKD to learn more.

Five Stars for The Endo Center at Voorhees

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month. Colon cancer is highly preventable and curable with a screening, which is why we encourage our patients to consider getting a colonoscopy. We're sharing a five-star Google review from Gina R., a patient of The Endo Center at Voorhees:

"I am blown away by my experience at The Endo Center! This facility is like no other. It is like a well-oiled machine. From the moment I was greeted at the door, I knew I was going to be in safe hands. The front desk staff was amazing and all the nurses, medical staff, and doctors were warm and friendly. They made me feel safe and comfortable.

"Dr. Neil Cohen is the best. Let's face it, having a colonoscopy can be uncomfortable; however, I highly recommend this facility. In fact, my husband went for his screening the following week, and he had the same experience. The team cares about the safety of their patients and each other. They plan everything—from drop off to pick up. It is a seamless operation for both the patient and their driver. Kudos to The Endo Center!"

Our teams strive to provide top-quality care to every patient, so we're always pleased to hear when they are especially satisfied with their experience. Ultimately, Google reviews help us track patient satisfaction, collect insights, and implement service recovery when necessary. To keep building on your online reputation with Google reviews, visit the [Brand Hub](#) for helpful materials from The Lasting Impact Project.

Awareness and Recognition at Virtua Health

Next week, Virtua recognizes Health Care Human Resources Week, Patient Safety Awareness Week, Pulmonary Rehab Week, as well as Social Work and National Kidney Month.

- **March 14 to 18: Health Care Human Resources Week** — As 2022 marks the 11th anniversary of Health Care Human Resources (HR) Week, we ask all Virtua colleagues to recognize and celebrate our human resources professionals for their important role across our continuum of care.
- **March 13-19: Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week** — In the United States alone, tens of millions of people suffer from lung disease. Although pulmonary rehabilitation is not a cure for lung conditions, it is an effective way to cope and live with the disease. Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week is observed to bring awareness to the role of pulmonary rehabilitation in enhancing the quality of life of individuals with lung conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary fibrosis, black lung disease, cystic fibrosis, chronic bronchitis, scleroderma, and lung cancer. Pulmonary rehabilitation is a form of treatment that includes diet counseling, patient screening, stress management, and monitored exercise. "At Virtua, our staff is helping our patients cope physically and mentally with the disease," said Renee Lombo, director of Cardiopulmonary Rehab Services at Virtua. "We are just so grateful for their admirable efforts in supporting patients to become more independent so to enjoy a better quality of life."

To learn about Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation, click [here](#).

- **March 13 to 18: Patient Safety Awareness Week** — Thank you, Virtua colleagues, for embracing the importance of establishing a safe practicing environment for our patients, families, and each other.

Thank you for engaging in your department safety huddles, escalating safety concerns, using our NJ STRONG safety tools, supporting one another, and entering occurrence reports. Your engagement has improved safety and quality by creating a learning environment to enhance our systems and processes.

You have helped us:

- Extend the average days between serious safety events from an average of 2.2 in 2019 to 6.8 in 2021
- Reduce falls with injury
- Reduce CAUTIs by 46% from 2020
- Reduce CLABSIs by 28% from 2020
- Establish workgroups to improve workplace safety
- Enhance medication barcode labeling and scanning process
- Accelerate the timeline for the purchase of new IV pumps
- Add an alert to patients' records to communicate risks and possible de-escalation techniques

The list above is just an example of your many contributions and commitment to a safety culture.

Patient Safety Awareness Week is a national education and awareness-building campaign to encourage all hospitals, clinics, and health care organizations to participate in the journey towards safer care and zero harm.

Virtua's safety and high reliability resources can be found on the VINE: [Safety / High Reliability Organization \(HRO\) - Home \(virtua.org\)](#). Additionally, if you like word searches, check out the [patient safety word search](#) with [answer key](#).

Virtua in the News

Military and Vets Get Targeted Attention through New Program — Virtua's "Here to Serve" program offers enhanced access to health care for active-duty military members, veterans, and their immediate families. This *Courier-Post* story includes interviews with two patients and Dr. Reg Blaber, executive VP and chief clinical officer for Virtua—himself a veteran. Read and watch a short video [here](#).

Colonoscopy Isn't the Only Way to Screen for Colon Cancer — It's the gold standard for colon cancer screening, but getting a colonoscopy can be challenging for some people. This *Philadelphia Inquirer* story discusses other options, and includes insights from Dr. Greg Seltzer, medical director of gastroenterology for Virtua Medical Group. Read [here](#).

Matters of the Heart — After two years of the pandemic, area doctors urge people to return to healthier lifestyles—starting with a focus on their cardiovascular health. This *South Jersey Magazine* story includes advice from Dr. Dan Choi, Virtua VP of clinical operations for cardiovascular services. Read [here](#).

Protecting Health Care Heroes from Threats, Violence — A newly proposed state law would increase penalties against those who harm or threaten staff at health care facilities. Read about the planned legislation [here](#), including remarks from Dennis W. Pullin, president and CEO of Virtua. You can also watch a TV news story [here](#) featuring Paul Sarnese, Virtua AVP of safety, security, and emergency management.

Virtua CEO Named a ‘Health Care Influencer’ for 2022 — Statewide business magazine *ROI-NJ* has recognized Dennis W. Pullin, president and CEO of Virtua, among the top health care influencers in New Jersey. Check out his listing [here](#).

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Moving Towards Zer0 — March 1 marked Zer0 Discrimination Day, a day recognized by the United Nations to actively promote everyone’s right to live with dignity while celebrating their differences regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, health status, ethnicity, ability, occupation, education, and beliefs.

This year for Zer0 Discrimination Day, join Virtua’s Colleague Communities on Tuesday, March 15 from 5 to 6 p.m., as WE come together to promote change and discuss ways we can work together to end discrimination.

Click [here](#) to register for the session!

Bolstering Resilience in a Dynamic Landscape — The Women of Virtua Colleague Community invites all colleagues to join them on Wednesday, March 23 in a session dedicated to YOU. In this session, you will learn strategies to cope with and develop resilience to the ongoing stressors of the pandemic.

We will cover tools to improve work-life balance, instill hope, and mitigate burnout and compassion fatigue. Colleagues who would like to join the session can [register by clicking here!](#)

Calling All Pets of Virtua!

In honor of upcoming National Pet Day and Dog Therapy Appreciation Day on Monday, April 11, we would like to honor our pets of Virtua! Your dog, cat, or other pet are all part of our Virtua family too!

If you would like to have your pet entered to win a chance to be featured on a specially designed eCard, submit your photo to Maribel Maldonado (mmaldonado@virtua.org) by Thursday, March 17. Include your name, department/location and your pet’s name.

A few tips when submitting your photo:

- Photos should be horizontal.
- Close-ups are better and the pet should not blend into the background.
- Email the actual photo; scanned images cannot be accepted.