

Clinician Update May 19, 2022

Important Safety Message: COVID Info from Dr. John Matsinger

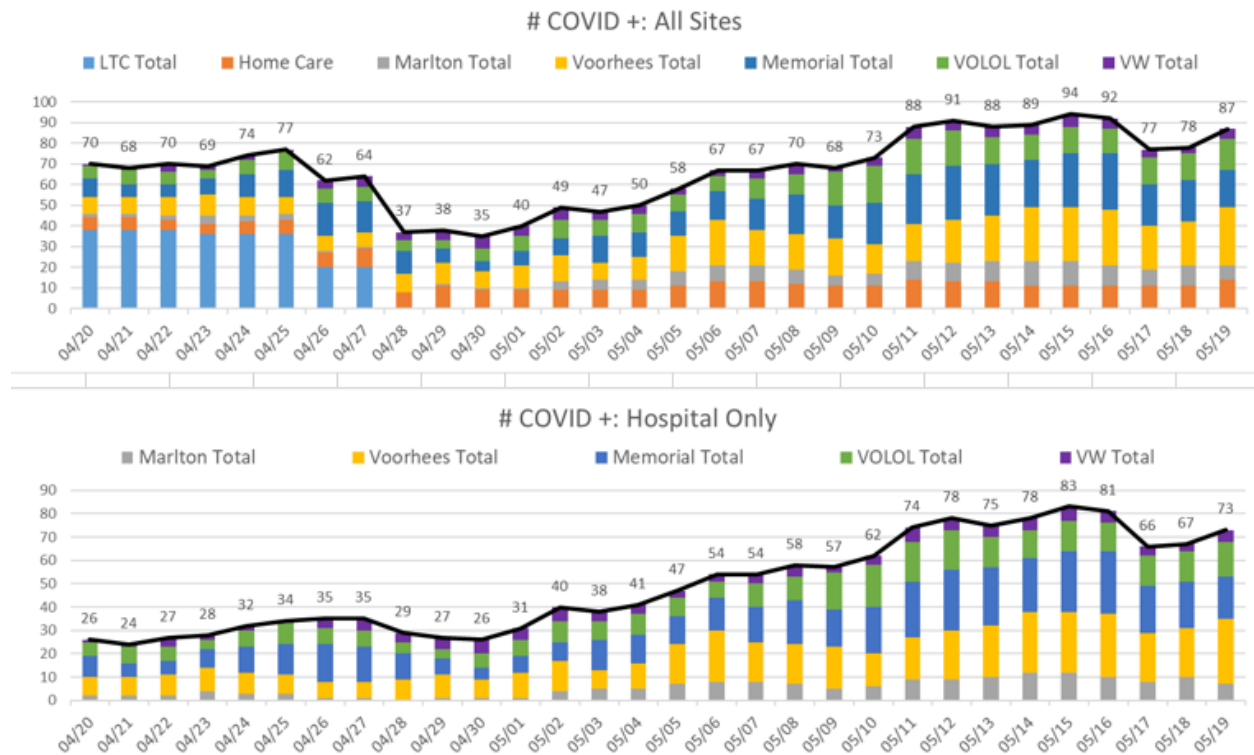
After a few months of comparably low COVID cases in the region, we are seeing another spike in the community and among our colleagues. Like New York City and other parts of the Northeast, we are now classified as a "high alert" region.

Given this trend, we ask all Virtua colleagues to take note of the following safety measures based on recommendations from the CDC.

- Wear masks snugly and securely, covering your nose and mouth. The better we model proper masking, the better example we set for patients and visitors.
- We ask all colleagues to wear masks while in breakrooms, lounges, locker rooms, and other settings that may not be patient-facing but still present opportunity for the virus to spread. Masks should also be worn at and around nursing stations.
- Consider taking your meals outside whenever possible. Large indoor spaces, like cafeterias, are preferable to smaller spaces, like breakrooms. Our past experience suggests that dining in breakrooms with others has contributed to the spread of infection.
- Colleagues in non-clinical settings, like offices, should also wear masks indoors for their safety and the safety of those around them.

Thank you for all you do to promote public health.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- As noted in Dr. Matsinger’s message above, New Jersey is once again facing a surge in COVID-19 cases. [According to the CDC](#), the highest transmission levels are seen in these nine counties: Sussex, Morris, Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Cape May. Notably, this includes all of Virtua’s service area.
- The FDA has expanded its emergency use authorization (EUA) to include booster shots for children age 5 to 11 and permits the administration of a single booster dose for children ages 5 to 11 at least five months after completion of the primary series with the Pfizer vaccine. Pfizer booster doses previously were authorized under emergency use for ages 12 to 15. You can find FDA [fact sheets and other updated information](#) for the Pfizer vaccine are available from the FDA.
- The latest rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported on Tuesday as 1.29.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 56,844 cases
 - Burlington County: 88,180 cases
 - Camden County: 108,740 cases
 - Gloucester County: 56,676 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,633.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 17,755,899 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Leapfrog Scores – Spring 2022 Results Posted

The Leapfrog Group, a national organization that collects, analyzes, and publishes data on health care safety and quality, recently released their results for [spring 2022](#). In our region, some hospitals received top grades, while others received average grades. Virtua Health fared similarly with Virtua Voorhees achieving an “A”; Virtua Marlton, a “B,” and the remaining Virtua facilities scoring “C’s.”

Reg Blaber, MD, executive vice president and chief clinical officer at Virtua, congratulated the team at Virtua Voorhees Hospital for their well-earned “A” grade. He further acknowledged that The Leapfrog Group and “other third-party evaluators can provide insights into areas where we excel and where there are opportunities for improvement. We take such feedback to heart and have implemented meaningful new policies and practices since the data for these safety grades were gathered, some of which is now about two years old.”

Dr. Blaber emphasized that such reports are important to measuring where we are on our journey to become a High-Reliability Organization (HRO) and our commitment to the most vulnerable members of our community who entrust us with their care.

Leapfrog’s letter grades are based on more than 30 measures of patient safety and encompass metrics around physical and emotional safety (as manifested in communication scores). The reporting period for the latest report spans 2019 through the first quarter of 2021, depending on the measure. Leapfrog’s hospital rating system focuses on preventable errors, accidents, injuries, and infections, and uses data collected through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, available to all hospitals to complete. More details on [Leapfrog](#) and its methodology can be found here. New Jersey’s specific rankings can be [found here](#).

Virtua Launches SwipeSense Hand Hygiene System at Virtua Marlton Hospital

In keeping with our commitment to patient safety and our HRO journey, Virtua Health is piloting a new effort to improve hand-washing compliance and prevent infection. SwipeSense, an innovative platform uses tracking technology to help protect our patients and ourselves from harmful, potentially deadly, germs.

By using a combination of SwipeSense fobs and hygiene sensors, Virtua can capture reliable data to help increase hand hygiene compliance and aid in the fight against hospital-acquired infections. Studies show that, on average, hospitals using SwipeSense have reduced hospital-acquired infections by 49% in the first year.

Virtua will pilot this program at Virtua Marlton Hospital, and the installation of this system will occur the week of May 23 in areas where direct patient care is provided (inpatient units, emergency department, procedural rooms).

Unit managers and colleagues working in infection prevention, public safety, and human resources will have access to hand hygiene dashboards that will allow us to celebrate individuals and departments with great hand hygiene and provide clear opportunities where improvement is needed.

Please see the attached [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Overview](#) to share with staff in direct patient care areas.

Thank you for your support with this very important initiative.

Five Stars for Virtua Hospitals!

We needed more than a week (as it is Hospital Week) to celebrate all the good from our hospital colleagues. So, we are keeping the celebrations going and sharing a few rave reviews from patients on Google.

- **James K.**, a patient of Virtua Voorhees Hospital, wrote: “...Top notch care—from every member of the medical team—was delivered to each and every patient, inherent human value truly held to heart. And no, I’m not a plant. They’re that good!”
- **Sequince I.**, a patient of Virtua Mount Holly Hospital, wrote: “...They are absolute angels who genuinely care. It’s not just a job to them. I have never experienced such great and compassionate service from any hospital.”
- **Loretha J.**, a family member of a patient at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, wrote: “...It’s very difficult to get this level of service today. Many businesses should take a page out of your book.”
- **Kathleen M.**, a patient of Virtua Marlton Hospital, wrote: “The best staff and the best food! You WANT to recuperate right here! Thank you!”
- **Maxie S.**, a patient of Virtua Willingboro Hospital, wrote: “Very kind staff! I'm willing to go out of my way to get to this hospital.”

Virtua hospitals have received more than 300 positive reviews on Google year-to-date! The feedback we have received from patients and their families is a direct reflection of the caring culture we strive for each day. Thank you for your hard work! And to see how Virtua celebrated this year’s Hospital Week, check out the pics that Virtua colleagues shared snapshots on the [Virtua Colleague Facebook Page](#).

Recognition Weeks:

- **EMS Week**—This week (May 15 to 21), we honor our emergency medical services (EMS) colleagues. This year's theme is "Rising to the Challenge," recognizing those who engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills and are at the ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. NJ.com spoke with James Newman, vice president of patient logistics, and long-time Virtua paramedic Lorraine Russell about the significance of EMS Week. James said, "We want to say thank you to all our EMS professionals and the entire department who work day in and day out to provide critical frontline care to our communities and essential service to our health network." Read more [here](#).
- **Health Care Technology Management Week**—This week (May 19 to 25) is Health Care Technology Management Week, which promotes the awareness of—and appreciation for—the critical work of professionals who manage and maintain technology in health care organizations. Tom Hediger, corporate director of biomedical engineering, says, "Happy Health Care Technology Management Week! I thank you for your unwavering commitment to help our communities be well, get well, and stay well. Your dedication to the organization is truly noteworthy!"

Update: Here for Good T-Shirts in Support of Ukraine

More than 500 colleagues have purchased this special shirt to support relief efforts and humanitarian assistance in Ukraine. So far, more than \$5,000 has been raised.

The first bundle of shirts has been printed and were delivered to various Virtua campuses last week. If you would like one of these shirts that signify Virtua's commitment to being Here for Good, please visit the [Virtua Logo Shop](#). A V-neck version of the shirt is now available for all colleagues.

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Month

The United States is home to millions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, representing a diverse array of cultures and traditions. This month, Virtua and VirtuAsia recognize the richness and vibrancy of Asian culture, which includes diverse delectable dishes bursting with flavor and color.

This week, Grace Roche, co-chair of VirtuAsia, shared popular foods served at Filipino parties. The most popular dishes around the buffet table are *lumpia* (savory egg rolls filled with ground pork and mixed vegetables) and *pancit* (a noodle dish that typically includes chicken, shrimp, or pork, and thinly sliced, crunchy vegetables).

Grace says: Like most people, Filipinos love to celebrate all special occasions with family members and close friends. From birthday parties, anniversaries, and holidays to receiving religious sacraments such as Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation, Filipinos will gather to celebrate loved ones and bring delicious dishes to savor and share. Trays and trays of food are always lined up on kitchen counters, islands, or dining room tables for partygoers to fill their plates while they chat and catch up with each other well into the night. We are not only forever grateful for the food we have on the table, but the love and camaraderie among family and friends. Mabuhay (cheers)!

A Call for New Colleague Communities

Colleague Communities are making a difference in our organization. They are an opportunity to create a sense of belonging and inclusion for all. If you are interested in helping to establish a Colleague Community, we encourage you to [complete this form](#).

Upcoming Events Hosted by Colleague Communities

- ***Women’s Health throughout the Life Cycle: Menopause, Pelvic Health, and Sexual Wellness***
May 25, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

The Women of Virtua Colleague Community invites you to an eye-opening virtual discussion highlighting areas of women’s health that many of us are not comfortable discussing with our health care providers. We encourage you to bring any questions you may have related to menopause, sexual wellness, and pelvic conditions. You can also anonymously submit questions prior to the session by [clicking here](#). Register via the Virtua Learning System by clicking [here](#). Click to [view the flyer](#).

- ***Bystander Intervention to Stop Anti-Asian American Harassment***
May 31, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

While May is a month to celebrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, it is also an opportunity to advocate for and support the community. The VirtuAsia Colleague Community invites you to attend an interactive training that will cover the 5Ds of bystander intervention: **Distract, Delegate, Document, Delay, and Direct**. These techniques can be used in any scenario, and all are encouraged to attend. Register via the Virtua Learning System by clicking [here](#). Click to [view the flyer](#).

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Supporting a Friend or Family Member with Mental Illness

Tuesday, May 24, 12 to 1 p.m.

Supportive friends and family can play an important role in the mental health recovery process. But all too often, people respond negatively or dismissively when someone discloses that they have a mental health disorder. It is important to remember that mental health disorders are just as real as physical illnesses and that a person cannot just “snap out of it.” Learn the importance of being an educated friend or family member in order to assist appropriately. Click [to register](#). After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. This program is being offered by Carebridge, Virtua’s employee assistance program.

Upcoming Events

American Cancer Society Bike-A-Thon Bridge to the Beach

Sunday, June 12

The American Cancer Society Bike-A-Thon Bridge to the Beach features four starting points and six route options giving you the freedom to ride a short, medium, or long distance. Participants may also go virtual and set your own meaningful miles to complete at your pace. Click [to sign up](#). Use code HOSP-20 for \$20 off the registration fee; choose Team Virtua when signing up. Email AGiordano@virtua.org if you have any questions.

Run with the Docs 5K Run and 1-Mile Walk

Sunday, June 12

Lace up those sneakers for [Run with the Docs](#). Virtua Voorhees Hospital is the scene of this popular 5K

run and 1-mile walk—all to support our programs for families who have experienced [pregnancy and infant loss](#). For event organizers and OB/GYN physicians Drs. Stacy McCrosson and Kimberly Bridges-White, the event is a great opportunity to get out for a truly meaningful cause. For more information, click [here](#).