

Clinician Update

May 27, 2021

An Important Video Message About the COVID-19 Vaccine

Virtua President and CEO **Dennis W. Pullin** and Virtua Infection Control Officer **Dr. Martin Topiel** share an important message about the COVID-19 vaccine.

In the video, Dennis says, "Vaccines hold the key to returning to life the way it was before. If you want to attend weddings and parties, visit family, go on vacations, or even go to dinner, vaccines will keep you safe. People are dying of COVID-19 every single day. Every life lost is a tragedy. But what makes the more recent deaths even more tragic, is that most likely, the vaccine would have led to a different outcome. You should get the vaccine because you work in health care and you know firsthand about the human suffering and the physical and emotional toll we have collectively endured."

To date, Virtua has administered more than **400,000 vaccines** to Virtua colleagues and members of our community at the Virtua Barry D. Brown Health Education Center in Voorhees, the Burlington County COVID-19 Vaccine Mega-Site in Moorestown, and other pop-up locations. We want to thank the colleagues who scheduled the thousands of appointments and the staff who worked at all locations to ensure an efficient and smooth process to vaccination. We are also grateful to the colleagues who have been ambassadors of the vaccine to their families, friends, and neighbors, raising awareness of its safety and efficacy.

In the video, Dr. Topiel says, "It's now that we must trust medical professionals, researchers, and scientists to help us through this sickness, this pandemic. These vaccines have been developed for many years, but more recently were developed to fight COVID. There was tremendous investment put into these studies up front and with great thought because people were dying by the thousands, and we needed a solution to this pandemic...We have learned how safe and effective these vaccines are. I have heard them described as a miracle. And they truly are."

Click to [watch the video](#), which was distributed today to all Virtua colleagues.

Memorial Day: A Day to Remember

With Memorial Day upon us, we pause to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we enjoy. We offer gratitude for these heroes, keeping them in mind and in heart for all they have done for us.

Dr. Reg Blaber, executive vice president and chief clinical officer who served six years in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of major, speaks to the dignity of our heroes and our opportunity to remember. Click to [view the video](#).

Changes to the Burlington County Mega-Site Hours of Operation

Effective **Sunday, May 30**, the Burlington County COVID-19 Vaccine Mega-Site will be closed Sundays and Mondays. The mega-site will be open **Tuesday through Saturday**. The Virtua Access Center will connect with individuals who currently have second-dose appointments scheduled for Sundays or Mondays and shift their boosters to another day.

For additional information about receiving a vaccine at the mega-site, please visit virtua.org/vaccine.

Changes to Visitation Policy at Virtua

Updated visitor guidelines are now in effect at Virtua hospitals.

For the health and safety of our patients and their families, as well as our staff and the communities we serve, **general visitation is currently limited to two visitors for each patient**. Children under the age of 18 are not permitted to visit.

Visitors must sanitize hands, participate in a temperature check, and complete a screening tool for COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival at our facilities. Facemasks are also still required for all visitors. Anyone coughing or showing other signs of illness will be kindly asked to leave and visit remotely.

General visiting hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at all Virtua hospitals.

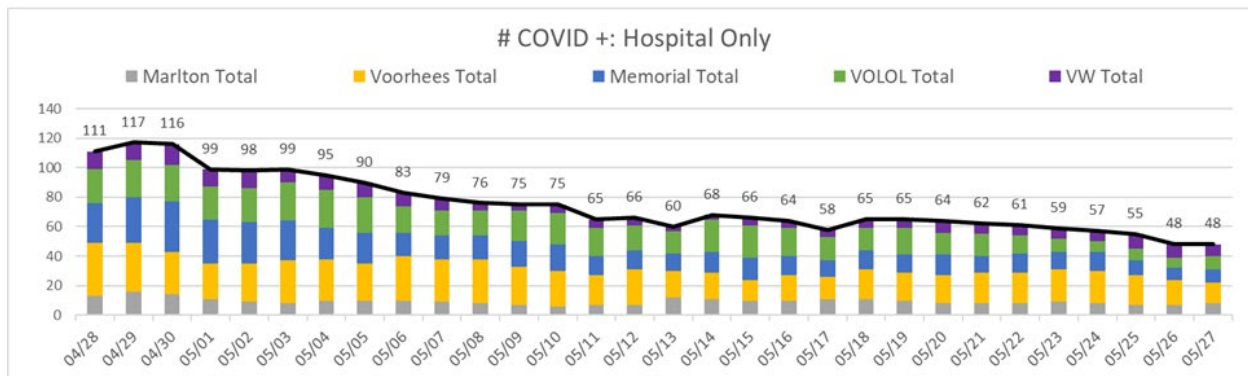
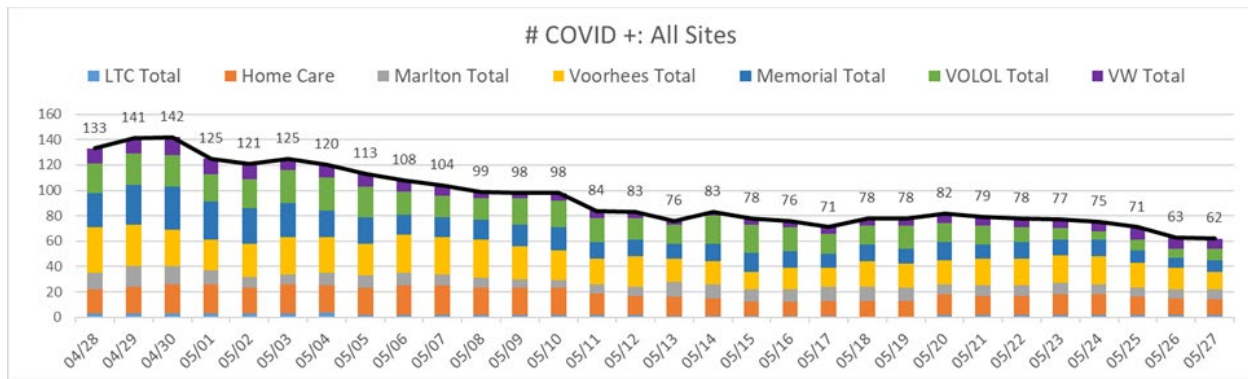
Department-specific exceptions to the visitor guidelines include:

- **Pediatric Patients** - Two parents/guardians can visit pediatric patients 24/7.
- **Surgery or Medical Procedure** - One to two visitors may accompany the patient into the facility. The visitor(s) must depart when the patient is taken into the prep area.
- **Patients with Disabilities** - Patients with disabilities, such as sensory impairment or developmental/cognitive disability, may have one to two visitors at any time.
- **High-Risk Obstetrics** - One support person may accompany patients admitted for induction of labor or scheduled C-section.
- **Labor and Delivery / Mother-Baby** - One support person may accompany laboring woman; must be same person throughout hospital stay. A doula is considered part of the patient's care team.
- **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or Special Care Nursery** - Visiting hours are 24/7 for two approved visitors (mother and designated support person/care partner).
- **Emergency Department** - One visitor is permitted to be with the patient in the treatment area (regardless of time of day). Due to the changing needs of the emergency department and to preserve social distancing and privacy, visitation may be modified at any time by the emergency department staff.
- **Hospital Patients in Isolation** - Visitation is not permitted for patients who are positive for COVID-19 or are under investigation for COVID-19.

In addition, visitors are **not permitted** at Virtua Medical Group offices and outpatient departments.

Click to view the [guidelines on virtua.org](https://virtua.org/guidelines). We encourage you to cascade this information to your team members.

Virtua COVID-19 Census



Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey stands at 0.78.
- The total number of cases as of 3 p.m. are as follows:
 - Burlington County: 38,166 cases
 - Camden County: 48,838 cases
 - Gloucester County: 26,483 cases

Virtua Urgent Care Telehealth: Your Partner in Providing Safe, On-Demand Care

Virtua Urgent Care has been a trusted resource for you and your patients, providing safe and reliable care for minor illnesses and injuries that pop up fast. Now, our telehealth visits make it even easier to get reliable care for life's little emergencies – care you can be confident to recommend. As with Virtua Urgent Care in-person visits, you'll get detailed online reports of your patients' telehealth visits so you are always in the loop regarding any recommended follow-up care with your practice. A recent update offers a chat platform that makes it incredibly [easy to access and connect with a Virtua Urgent Care provider](#) via telehealth. The service offers convenient hours, including weekends and holidays. A special flyer outlining the service and benefits for referring physicians and their patients can be found here: [Urgent Care Telehealth for PCPs](#).

Wound Care Today Now Posted to Digital 411

Our library of publications for and about Virtua clinicians has a home base on [Digital 411](#), found under [“Additional Resources/Clinician Publications.”](#) There, you can find archived copies of *Clinician Update*, as well as a growing newsletter series focused on Virtua’s specialty services. Our most recent issue is [Wound Care Today](#), and features Virtua’s comprehensive wound care service, addressing everything from diabetic foot wounds and venous ulcers, to non-healing, post-surgical wounds to arterial/ischemic ulcers and traumatic wounds. Virtua’s three wound care centers located at Virtua Voorhees, Virtua

Memorial, and Virtua Willingboro hospitals, with all three providing hyperbaric oxygen therapy. An Epic workflow allows for easy referral under “Ambulatory referrals.”

Free Cancer Screenings for Uninsured Residents

Free breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancer screenings are available for uninsured residents who meet the following requirements:

- Resident of New Jersey
- Between the ages of 21 and 64
- Uninsured or underinsured
- Not able to pay for the screenings

The screenings are provided through the NJ CEED Program at Virtua. The program accepts Medicare Part A only. We cannot accept Medicaid per federal regulations.

For more information, call **856-247-7388**, visit virtua.org/CEED, or follow us on Facebook at [Virtua Free Cancer Screenings](#). Click to view the [flyer](#).

Stay Connected with Virtua Health After Retirement

If you have retirement plans in the near future, congratulations! Thank you for the many years of care and service you have provided to our community. To help you stay connected, Virtua’s Office of Philanthropy has launched the Virtua Physician Alumni group. This group offers a great opportunity to keep in touch with colleagues and friends, and to stay informed about what's new and exciting at Virtua Health. Founding members include Dr. Jim Dwyer, Dr. Jeffrey Morris, Dr. Seth Ruderman, Dr. Steven Fox, Dr. Michael Proper, and Dr. Alan Weinstein – to name just a few.

We invite you to join the Physician Alumni [private Facebook Group](#) and participate in networking and social gatherings. If you are interested in participating, or know of someone who might be, please contact Usha Vig, Philanthropy Officer at Virtua Health, at uvig@virtua.org. Your friends look forward to connecting with you!

Virtua in the News

- **Virtua is Among the First to Provide COVID-19 Vaccines to Youths** - Hundreds of parents/guardians of adolescents immediately signed up for the shots at the Burlington County Mega-Site as soon as the CDC approved it for their age group. Reporters spoke with kids, parents, and Virtua experts on this important day. View the story [here](#).
- **Independence Blue Cross Honors Virtua Nurse** - As part of the annual Celebrate Caring campaign, 6 ABC profiled **Steve Footit**, an ICU nurse at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital who’s also a combat veteran and cancer survivor. Watch [here](#).
- **Celebrating Innovation and Collaboration During Hospital Week** - A blog by the American College of Health Care Executives includes portions of an essay by **Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE**, Virtua President and CEO. Titled “Hope in Action,” the column excerpt appears [here](#).
- **Virtua Doctor Discusses Women’s Health in Radio Interviews** - **Dr. Nermin Lazarus**, a Virtua primary care physician, was interviewed for Women’s Health Month on [92.5 XTU](#) and [95.7 Ben FM about ways women should keep themselves healthy, including getting annual](#) physical exams and preventative health screenings, such as mammograms and colonoscopies.

A Special Virtual Performance from Musicians on Call

Musicians on Call, an organization that delivers the healing power of music to hospital patients, recently hosted a virtual performance.

Local artist Mark LeWinter played a session exclusively for hospitals in the Philadelphia region, including Virtua. We invite our hospital colleagues, patients, and guests to view and share the 30-minute show on [YouTube](#).

Missed Last Week's Clinician Update?

Last week, an update to our email system unintentionally dropped some of our readers from our distribution roll. We apologize for the error. You can find [last week's issue here](#) in the archive of all previous issues.