

Clinician Update May 5, 2022

COVID-19 Appropriate Therapy Webinar

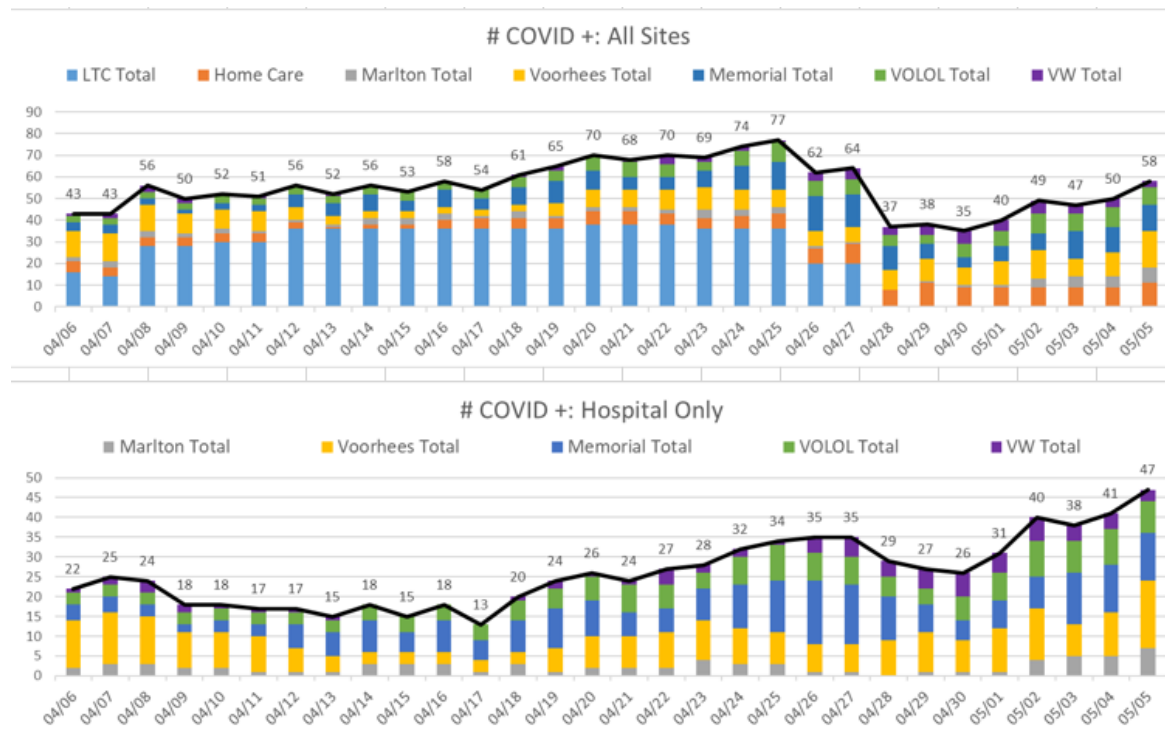
With the news this week that the CDC estimates that more than half of U.S. adults have now been infected with COVID-19, it is more important than ever for clinicians to remain up to date on the latest advances in therapies and protocols for appropriate referral. We have come a long way in this persistent pandemic, and as the journey continues, we remain vigilant.

In a webinar presented this past Tuesday evening, Virtua Infection Control Officer Martin Topiel, MD, FSHEA, presented the latest protocols for physicians to consider when making the appropriate referral for therapy. He discussed new oral medications now available that may be a better option for most people, as well as options developed specifically for immunocompromised patients as a preventative treatment, and answered many questions. More than 150 providers participated in the program, a sure sign of provider engagement on this important topic.

- To view the webinar, [click here](#).
- For Dr. Topiel's presentation slides, now on Digital 411, [click here](#).
- For a very helpful guide mentioned by Dr. Topiel which details management of Paxlovid drug-drug interactions, also now on Digital 411, [click here](#).

In related news, the U.S. has sadly [surpassed 1 million COVID-related deaths](#) though balancing that news is a recent report by [The Commonwealth Fund](#) that found vaccination efforts have *averted* more than 2.3 million deaths and 17 million hospitalizations.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The latest rate of transmission in New Jersey was reported Tuesday as 1.2.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
 - Atlantic County 55,674 cases
 - Burlington County: 85,693 cases
 - Camden County: 106,379 cases
 - Gloucester County: 55,571 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,611.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 17,595,688 doses of vaccine have been administered.

New Visitation Guidelines for Virtua Hospitals

Effective immediately, Virtua Health has expanded its visiting hours and lifted many restrictions at all hospitals and facilities, bringing our visitation policy the closest to what it was before the pandemic.

To help communicate this message to patients and their loved ones, please utilize the following resources:

- Up-to-date visitor guidelines are posted on the Virtua website. This includes department-specific exceptions and the required safety behaviors of any visitor. [Click here.](#)
- The Virtua Brand Hub has a flyer detailing visitor guidelines. This flyer can be used as a handout or posted in appropriate public/common areas. [Click here.](#)
- For internal use, the visitor guidelines policy is available on the Virtua VINE in the COVID-19 Resource Center under "Visitation Information." [Click here.](#)

One Day Left! Vote Virtua Health as a Best Place to Work

We are just a few surveys away from being considered a Best Place to Work by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*! Thank you for encouraging your fellow colleagues to take the survey.

There is just **one day** remaining to take the survey and **we are at 73 percent**. We need **460 more people** to participate in order to be considered. The deadline to take the survey is **tomorrow, Friday, May 6**.

Please encourage your teammates to take the survey today. Please click [here](#) to access the survey or cut and paste the following link: https://survey.quantumworkplace.com/bpsurvey/oc_NDQY11599. The link is also available on the VINE under Virtua News.

Here for Good T-Shirts in Support of Ukraine

More than 300 colleagues have purchased this special shirt that raises funds to support relief efforts and humanitarian assistance in Ukraine. The first bundle of shirts has been printed and will be delivered to various Virtua campuses shortly. If you would like one of these shirts that signify Virtua's commitment to being Here for Good, please visit <https://bit.ly/VirtuaUKR>. A v-neck version of the shirt is now available.

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Month

In May, Virtua and the VirtuAsia Colleague Community recognize the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

Throughout the month, members of VirtuAsia will share photos and videos of special holiday celebrations and why they love, appreciate, and are proud of their Asian heritage.

Liny Joseph, co-chair of VirtuAsia, shared a photo from her friend's Sangeet, an event held before an Indian wedding. Sangeet, which literally translates to "music," is a celebration where attendees offer well wishes to the bride for the life she is about to start.

Liny says:

"As an Indian-American Catholic, we don't have a Sangeet, so it was an honor to support my friend who was celebrating an Indian-American-Punjabi-Christian wedding.

"In this photo, I am getting mehndi done to my hands. Occasionally combined with the Sangeet, a mehndi party is where the bride's guests have mehndi, or henna, applied to their hands. Mehndi is an herbal paste associated with positive spirits and good luck.

"I love that as an Indian-American, I am able to experience the culture from another region. India has so many diverse religions, dialects, food, and traditions within the country."

Include Personal Pronouns to Your Business Cards

The Virtua Brand Hub has updated its business card templates to include a customizable option to add your personal pronoun beneath your name. View the snapshots below to assist you in updating your business card. Click to visit the [Brand Hub](#).

Reminder: You can also add your personal pronouns to your email signature. Click to visit the [Brand Hub](#) to update your email signature.

Celebrating National Nurses Week

Tomorrow, **National Nurses Day**, jumpstarts the celebrations, and Virtua honors the nearly 4,000 nurses throughout our organization. In speaking to [NJ.com](#), Cathy Hughes, Virtua's chief nursing officer, said:

It's very special and meaningful to be able to celebrate after the two years we've been through. We are very excited to do this in person where we can see each other, hug each other. It's hard to find enough words to thank our nurses for all they've done. We never could have cared for our community without them and the many sacrifices they've made during the pandemic.

We have assembled a week of activities honoring our nurses. We will give our Nursing Excellence Awards to four nurses at each site who represent the best of the best. Our theme this year is gratitude.

Speaking of awards, just today, the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN) honored the 5A/B medical-surgical unit at Virtua Voorhees Hospital with the PRISM Award.

PRISM stands for Premier Recognition in the Specialty of Med-Surg and provides special recognition to the exemplary practice of med-surg units, recognizing the entire interdisciplinary team working together to achieve outstanding patient outcomes and customer loyalty.

The 5A/B med surg unit is the eighth Virtua unit to receive the PRISM Award; only 11 units in all of New Jersey have received this honor.

In addition to these accolades, Virtua will showcase a series of advertisements online and in the print publications *South Jersey Times* and *Trenton Times*.

Additionally, some future nurses dropped by to share their best wishes with Virtua nurses. Click to view the video on our [Virtua Celebrations page](#).

Fair warning: prepare to smile!

Speaking of future nurses, [Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing](#) will celebrate its students on National Student Nurses Day on **Sunday, May 8**. This year is cause for special celebration as Virtua works to refine and develop our partnership with Rowan University.

National Hospital Week Announcement

May 8 is also the first day of Hospital Week, and we are thrilled to announce the return of colleague picnics at select locations during the **week of May 16**. Check back next week for dates, times, locations, and additional details.

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 5D's 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](#).

WE Thrive

At Virtua, we are interested in colleague well-being. Visit the [WE Thrive](#) page for resources supporting the six key areas of well-being: physical, emotional, social, financial, spiritual, and intellectual.

This week, we focus our attention on the importance of social well-being.

In times of stress, social support plays a key role in bolstering our resilience and helping us find joy, even in the most difficult of times. This week, schedule time to connect with your friends, relax, chat, and enjoy a laugh together.

Another way to build your social well-being is through our Colleague Communities. These communities help individuals increase a sense of belonging and connectedness while at work. Click [Inclusion, Diversity and Equity](#) to learn more about our Colleague Communities.

WE Thrive Tip: May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Many of us are beginning to learn about mental health topics for the first time. Check out [Back To Basics: Practical Mental Health](#) information to learn more about mental health.

Top Docs Surveys:

- Click to [nominate a SJ Magazine Top Doc](#) by **Friday, May 13**. If you are a physician, [click here](#) and include your license number. The results will be posted in the magazine's September 2022 issue.
- Click to [nominate a South Jersey Magazine Top Physician](#). (Despite similar names, this is a different publication than the one above.) Each person can vote one time per day through **Tuesday, May 17**. The results will be published in the fall.

Upcoming Events

- **Cycling for Care**
May 14, 8:30 a.m.

The Cherry Hill Free Clinic invites you ride through the farms and low rolling hills of Burlington County in the 2022 Cycling for Care event. The rider registration fee is \$50 and proceeds go toward providing access to primary care for uninsured members of our community. Click to [register for the event](#) or scan the QR code.

- **Smoking Cessation Education and Support**
June 21 and 28, 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Attend a two-session educational support group to learn about the tobacco addiction process and get tools and support to help you quit smoking, including free nicotine patches and discounted acupuncture. Topic discussions will include addiction, stress management, and developing a personal plan to quit smoking using resources and support. To register, call 888-847-8823. Click to [view the flyer](#).