

Clinician Update

May 6, 2021

Timing on the Release of Test Results – May 11: Cures Act Regulations Take Effect

As reported previously, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) recently issued new guidance on the timing of the release of test results to a patient portal. Beginning on May 11, as test results are released, patients will also *simultaneously* have access to the results.

We encourage clinicians to continue having the conversation with patients around the availability of results through MyChart, and the possibility that they may receive results sooner than they may expect or before their provider receives the result. Patients should be assured that there is a process in place if test results are critical. For inpatients, the patient’s nurse or testing department ensures providers are notified after any critical results. As a reminder, clinicians may “unshare” a note, or delay the release of a result, in only two scenarios:

- 1) To prevent harm, when the sharing of information to MyChart is reasonably likely to endanger the life or physical safety of the patient or another person, or
- 2) If the patient (or his/her legal representative) has specifically requested that the note not be shared to his/her MyChart

Separately, last week, Virtua went live on ADT (Admission, Discharge, and Transfer) Event Notifications requirements, in advance of the national May 1 mandate.

We will continue to provide updates as various elements of the Act go into effect. Note that via [Digital 411](#), Virtua has created a special [Cures Act Resource link](#), which is updated regularly.

Virtua Health Launches Care After COVID Program

COVID can be persistent. Recent studies suggest that up to 30% of recovered COVID patients experience symptoms for weeks, or even months — which is both mentally and physically draining.

Virtua is proud to launch [Care After COVID](#), an evaluation and recovery program for those living with persistent symptoms.

The Next Step to Recovery

Care After COVID begins with a virtual visit with one of Virtua’s dedicated navigators, who will work closely with the patient to review symptoms and set up a full medical evaluation with one of our physicians.

From there, the patient and doctor will develop a tailored treatment plan tailored to their specific conditions, and the team will coordinate visits and follow-up appointments through our navigators.

To learn more, visit [this link on Virtua.org](#). To get started with an evaluation, individuals can call **856-325-3200**.

Safe, Compassionate Support

For those looking for a place to share, connect, and have meaningful conversations about their COVID journey, we invite individuals to explore the following support groups:

[Virtual COVID-19 support group](#) led by Virtua social workers

[Facebook support group for those recovering from COVID-19](#)

We extend our gratitude to all Virtua health care workers for always being there. From testing to treatment to vaccines — and now Care After COVID— you continue to take care of all of our patients' needs.

Advanced Structural Heart Capabilities at Virtua

Mitral valve disease is one of the most common valvular conditions, with mitral regurgitation (MR) the most prevalent form, affecting 10% of people age 75 and older. Left untreated, severe MR is associated with poor outcomes and repeat hospitalizations.

The good news is, the majority of primary MR is repairable, either surgically or endovascularly. The Structural Heart team at Virtua has special focus and achievement in mitral valve disease and is an early implementer of transcatheter mitral valve repair (MitraClip).

Over the past year, we have performed more than 65 mitral valve procedures. Virtua's Structural Heart team offers the full complement of valve treatments, as well as heart-wall and chamber-defect procedures like ventricular septal defect repair and PFO/ASD closures. Less-invasive structural heart procedures can be especially important for patients who are not candidates for surgery.

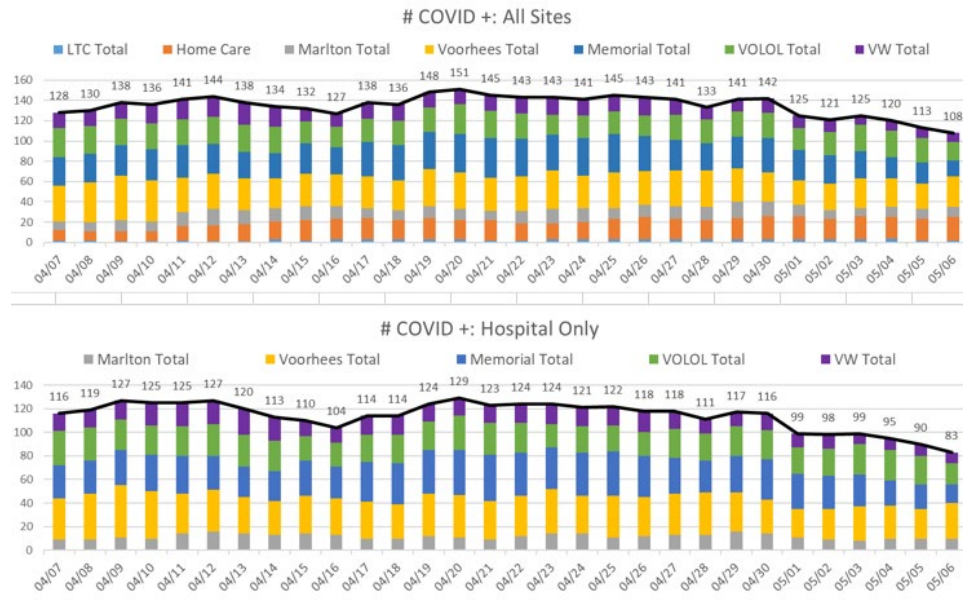
Virtua's Structural Heart team utilizes transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) for replacement of the aortic valve, a procedure in which the replacement valve pushes the native valve leaflets to the side when placed and immediately takes over their function.

And, as reported here, in April, the Structural Heart team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital successfully performed its first two MitraClip procedures for functional (or secondary) mitral regurgitation on patients with heart failure.

The goal of the Virtua valve program is to perform minimally invasive valve procedures, without having to make a large incision in the chest. Patients recover more quickly and have an improved quality of life.

To find out more about treatment options for your patients, please reach out to one of our VMG cardiologists.

Virtua COVID-19 Census



Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is currently at 0.42.
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 2,527 confirmed deaths, as of 3 p.m. today. The state also reports “probable” deaths from COVID-19, with figures shared separately on the [state dashboard](#). For the three counties, probable deaths would account for an additional 200 fatalities.
- The total number of cases are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Burlington County | 37,711 |
| Camden County | 48,035 |
| Gloucester County | 26,119 |
- The state has added a new tab to its [dashboard](#). Choose “Vaccination Overview” to keep tabs on how New Jersey is doing. As of today, a total of 7,373,075 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Governor Phil Murphy Tweets Video from the Burlington County Mega-Site

Via a message from his Twitter account, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy is urging all individuals, age 16 and older, to get vaccinated. His Twitter message stated:

For yourself
For your family
For the people you love
For your community
For our future
Get vaccinated.

He included this [special video](#) from the Burlington County Mega-Site, which featured community members who shared why they chose to get vaccinated:

"I chose to get vaccinated because I want to save myself and as well as everyone else."

"I chose to get vaccinated because I want to be an example for the people that I talk to in my community and my church."

"I chose to get vaccinated because we want to be able to get back out into the world."




"I chose to get vaccinated to protect the people I love."

Getting vaccinated is safe, effective, and stops the spread of COVID-19. Everyone must do their part to bring this pandemic to an end. If you or someone you know has not yet been vaccinated, now is the time to act. Visit virtua.org/vaccine to make an appointment.

We encourage you to share [Governor Murphy's tweet](#) and these important messages about vaccination with your teams and patients.

Virtua Health Celebrates Hospital Week, Nurses Week, and EMS Week

We truly can't "mask" our appreciation for our Virtua colleagues. This Hospital Week, Nurses Week, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, we are honoring your endless devotion, remarkable skill, and unwavering commitment to Virtua by hosting Spirit Week. We invite all colleagues to participate in the fun and engaging activities all week long.

| Sunday May 9 | Monday May 10 | Tuesday May 11 | Wednesday May 12 | Thursday May 13 | Friday May 14 | Saturday May 15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WE Applaud Nurses | Spirit Day | Mask Up Day | Kindness Day | Celebrate Philanthropy Day | Magic of Music Day | WE Applaud EMS Colleagues |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Send an eCard to all the excellent nurses you know! | Wear Virtua gear/colors and share selfies and group photos on the Facebook group for Virtua colleagues. | Celebrate the participants of Virtua's interactive mask activity. | Let's show South Jersey the incredible power of kindness! | Discover how philanthropy allows Virtua to be truly Here for Good. | Enjoy pop-up performances from East Coast Live Drumline at Virtua's hospitals. | Express your thanks to our awesome EMS team via WE Applaud eCards. |

Additionally, a series of advertisements will be featured in print and digital publications, as well as Virtua's social media and internal communications channels. The EMS ad features Virtua's own Megan Bernstein, paramedic.

In the spirit of engaging with our colleagues, we encourage you and your teams to share your photos from the week-long activities by emailing them to virtuainfo@virtua.org or posting them in our [Virtua Colleagues Official Group on Facebook](#).

Thank you for all that you do and for continuing to be an inspiration to us.

Tomorrow is Last Day to Vote for Virtua as a Best Place to Work

As you know, we are participating in the *Philadelphia Business Journal's* Best Places to Work survey. Very few organizations have been recognized as often as Virtua. In fact, 2021 would be our 15th year on this exclusive list! But, this year, with everyone so busy, it's coming down to the wire.

Talk it up with your staffs. We need less than 500 more people to participate in order to be considered. To participate, click on the link below to make your voice heard.

https://survey.quantumworkplace.com/bpsurvey/oc_GHEY99230

Again, the deadline to take the survey is tomorrow, **Friday, May 7**.

Deadline Approaching - SJ Magazine Top Docs Polling

Reminder, it's time to nominate colleagues for *SJ Magazine's* 2021 Top Docs issue. Voting ends May 15.

Here's how it works. "If you were ill, who would you go to?" That is the guiding question being asked. [You can vote here on this link exclusive for physicians](#). A physician license number is required, and you may cast only one ballot.

[Patients are able to poll as well, but would click on this separate link.](#)

The results will be published in the magazine's September 2021 issue. As for last year's list, to view the physicians who were chosen by their peers – and patients – as a 2020 Top Doc, [click here](#).

Be Kind to your Mind:

Virtua Recognizes Mental Health Awareness Month

Although more and more of our community members are receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, our health care workers are still treating patients diagnosed with coronavirus. While you care for them, Virtua is committed to caring for you. Our organization supports the well-being of our colleagues and is raising awareness of ways to help with stress and anxiety, especially during Mental Health Awareness Month.

These options include:

- [New Jersey Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling Program](#)
- [Carebridge Wellness and Life Management Resources](#)

This month's webinar features simple steps for staying connected with loved ones to improve your emotional well-being. [View the webinar](#) and use access code Y6EXA.

A visit with the Visiting Paws pet therapy team

Furry faces and belly rubs can be the perfect way to decompress!

Upcoming visits:

Virtua Marlton Hospital: **May 13**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Virtua Memorial Hospital: **May 18**, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital: **May 20**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Virtua Willingboro Hospital: **May 27**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Additionally, giving yourself permission to take a time out (breathe, go for a walk, or simply do something that brings you peace) can work wonders. One example is picking up a relaxing hobby, such as writing poetry, sculpting, painting, and drawing.

Help Your Community by Giving Blood

We invite you to join Virtua colleagues by helping the American Red Cross maintain a sufficient blood supply. The Red Cross will host several blood drives at various Virtua locations in the days ahead, including:

Monday, May 10

Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Berlin, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 25

Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Moorestown, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26

Virtua Memorial Hospital, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, May 28

Virtua Voorhees Hospital, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Red Cross continues to take additional measures to ensure the safety of its donors and recipients. These include donor temperature screenings, additional screening questions, enhanced disinfecting, and social distancing.

It is quick and easy to sign up for blood drives. Appointments are preferred. Click [here](#) to sign up and use sponsor code Virtua.

In Case You Missed It – Musicians on Call

Musicians on Call, an organization that delivers the healing power of music to hospital patients, hosted local artist Mark LeWinter virtually performing exclusively for select hospitals and health systems in our region, including Virtua. We invite you to view and share the 30-minute show found here on [YouTube](#).