

Clinician Update

Nov. 18, 2021

Tomorrow is Final Day to Receive COVID-19 Vaccine at the HEC

Tomorrow, **Friday, Nov. 19** is the final opportunity for the children/dependents of Virtua colleagues to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the Virtua Barry D. Brown Health Education Center (HEC) in Voorhees. Pediatric Pfizer doses are for ages 5 to 11. Click to [schedule an appointment](#).

Important details to note:

- Children receiving their first dose must be accompanied by a parent/guardian—grandparents, older siblings, babysitters, and so forth are NOT acceptable alternatives. Please bring documentation that lists the minor's date of birth.
- All visitors to the HEC, including children, must wear a mask throughout their visit.

Before the month is over, COVID-19 vaccines will be available at the new Burlington County COVID-19 Vaccine Mega-Site in Mount Laurel. More information coming soon.

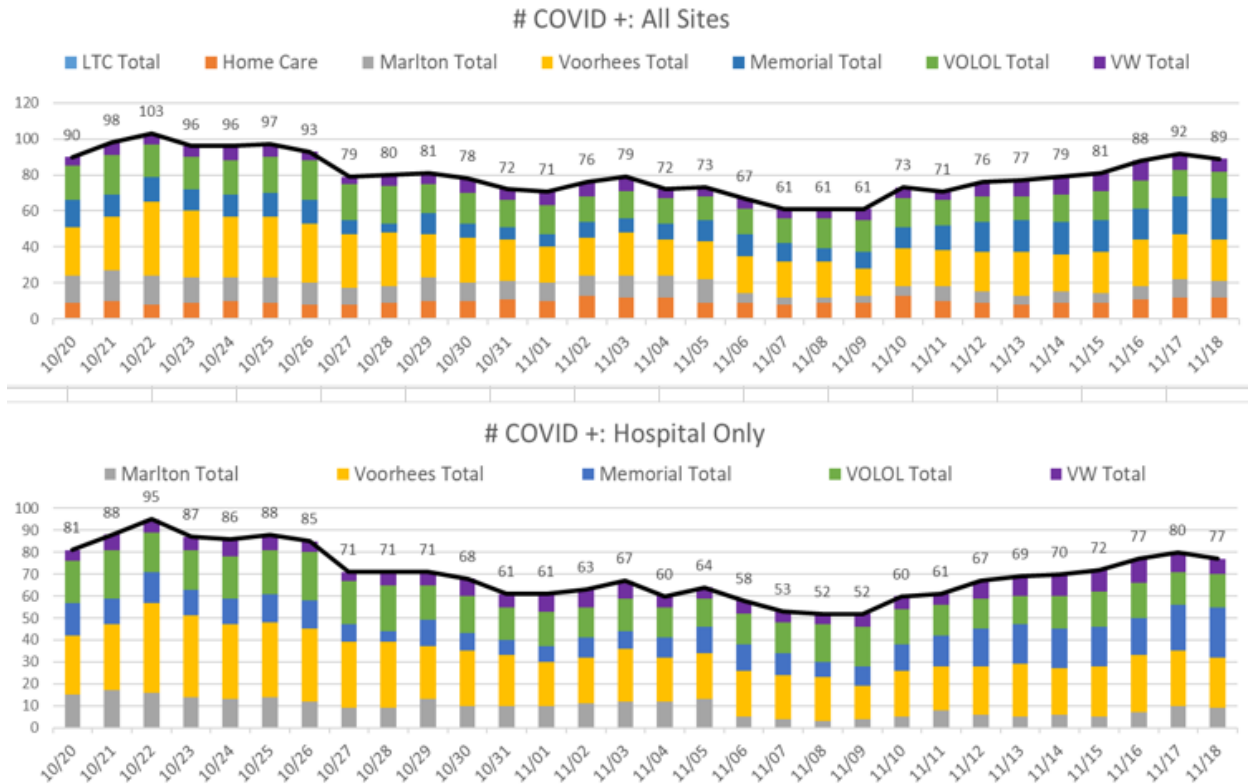
Long-term Study of Children with COVID-19

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has enrolled its first participant in a [long-term study of the impacts of COVID-19 on children](#). The study aims to track up to 1,000 children and young adults who previously tested positive for COVID-19, to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on their physical and mental health over three years, and ultimately to provide a detailed picture of COVID's effects on development, immune response, and overall quality of life in the years following infection. They also plan to track the long-term health effects of COVID to determine risk factors for complications. The study is part of the NIH's [Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery \(RECOVER\) Initiative](#), to better understand the long-term consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

CMS Update on Nursing Home Visitation

Last Friday, CMS issued an update to nursing homes that visitation can resume for all residents at all times. The [new guidance](#) acknowledges the many benefits of visitation, and allows for visits to be offered in a variety of ways, based on the facility's structure and residents' needs—including residents' rooms, visiting areas, and outdoors. It replaces prior guidance issued in March and May of this year. In addition, the guidance identifies core principles for infection prevention, and includes areas such as visitor and staff testing, hand hygiene, use of face coverings, and cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas. Further, it provides detailed updates for outdoor visitation, visitor testing and vaccination, compassionate care visits, and communal activities, among other topics. The New Jersey Department of Health has indicated that CMS-certified nursing homes must follow the CMS guidance while all long-term care facilities should continue to follow directives from [May 12, 2021, NJDOH directive](#) on visitation and other activities. An updated directive to reflect additional changes will be forthcoming.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey continues its upward trend, now at 1.15.
- The total number of cases as of 3 p.m. are as follows:
 - Burlington County: 47,802 cases
 - Camden County: 60,559 cases
 - Gloucester County: 33,615 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties: 2,940.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reports 13,207,553 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Musicians on Call Now Easier to Access

[Musicians on Call \(MOC\)](#) brings the healing power of music to select hospitals across the U.S., serving patients, families, and colleagues with virtual performances live each Wednesday at 3 p.m. Virtua Health is honored to be among the hospitals served in the Philadelphia region. [This downloadable flyer](#) has an easy QR code to scan and catch the live performance **but now, access is even easier by just clicking on [this link](#). A special code is no longer needed.** Previously held concerts are found in the calendar link for the previous month so patients, families, and staff can access at any time they need a break or mood lifter.

MOC was formed to provide bedside concerts to patients, staff, and visitors. The pandemic has paused on-site performances, but the virtual approach allows them to serve more people than before. If you have questions about the program, reach out to us at VirtuaClinician@virtua.org.

Hello Good Happenings

Virtua colleagues recently shared how they are doing good things for their fellow colleagues and community members. View the photos and posts on the [Virtua Colleague Group page on Facebook](#). *Seeing good reminds us of the difference we get to make every day.* Here are two recent “Hello Good” happenings:

Virtua Willingboro Hospital recently added a butterfly garden and floral landscaping to its beautiful Well Walk trail. Colleagues and visitors can spend time enjoying exhilarating exercise or a moment of tranquility and relaxation.

Additionally, the mail services team at Stow Road checked in to say hello (good). The team processes approximately 500,000 pieces of mail on an annual basis. This doesn’t include the large volumes of interoffice mail processed each day, too.

“The volume of mail has grown continuously,” said Ramona Nieves, supervisor. Brenda Banks, clerical associate, agrees. “We are very, very busy, but we love it.”

Caring Colleagues, Here for Good

Give for Good invites Virtua colleagues to make a philanthropic investment in the Virtua program or service that is most meaningful to them. Ready for some fast facts?

- Nearly 700 colleagues have already participated in Give for Good this year, bringing us more than halfway to our goal of 1,300 unique colleague donors in 2021. Thank you!
- Payroll deduction and PTO donation are the most popular giving methods.
- 100% of your gift goes directly to support the program or service you designate!
- No minimum giving level is required—ALL gifts are important, appreciated, and reflect our Culture of WE.
- Together, our gifts make a tremendous difference for our patients, each other, and the community we serve!

To learn more and make your gift: click the “Give for Good” button on the VINE or visit GiveToVirtua.org/Colleagues.

Questions? Please call the Office of Philanthropy at 856-355-0830 or email gratitude@virtua.org.