

## **Clinician Update**

### **November 5, 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pride to announce that this past Sunday, in the early morning hours, Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Virtua Willingboro Hospital, the hospital outpatient departments, and Lourdes Medical Associates' primary and specialty care practices successfully completed their transformative journey onto Epic.

This day has been a long time coming, and it is quite the achievement.

When we first embarked on this initiative last year, no one could have predicted we would complete this complex process amidst a global health crisis. This accomplishment is a true testament to our Culture of WE and to the perseverance of our teams.

This would not have been possible without the unwavering contributions of many individuals, departments, and vendors – most notably our excellent clinicians and IT department, led by senior vice president and chief information officer Tom Gordon.

More broadly, I take this moment to acknowledge everyone involved for their success in integrating our people, processes, operations, policies, and technologies into one organization-wide standard. I remain inspired by your diligence and grateful for your dedication.

The people we serve now benefit from greater continuity of care. Whether they visit a hospital, urgent care, outpatient department, primary or specialty care practice, or a combination of them all, they will benefit from the convenience and ease of one electronic medical record. This speaks directly to orienting to the consumer and transforming our delivery system – and ensures we remain the trusted choice for personalized health care and wellness.

Today, we are truly ONEVirtua.

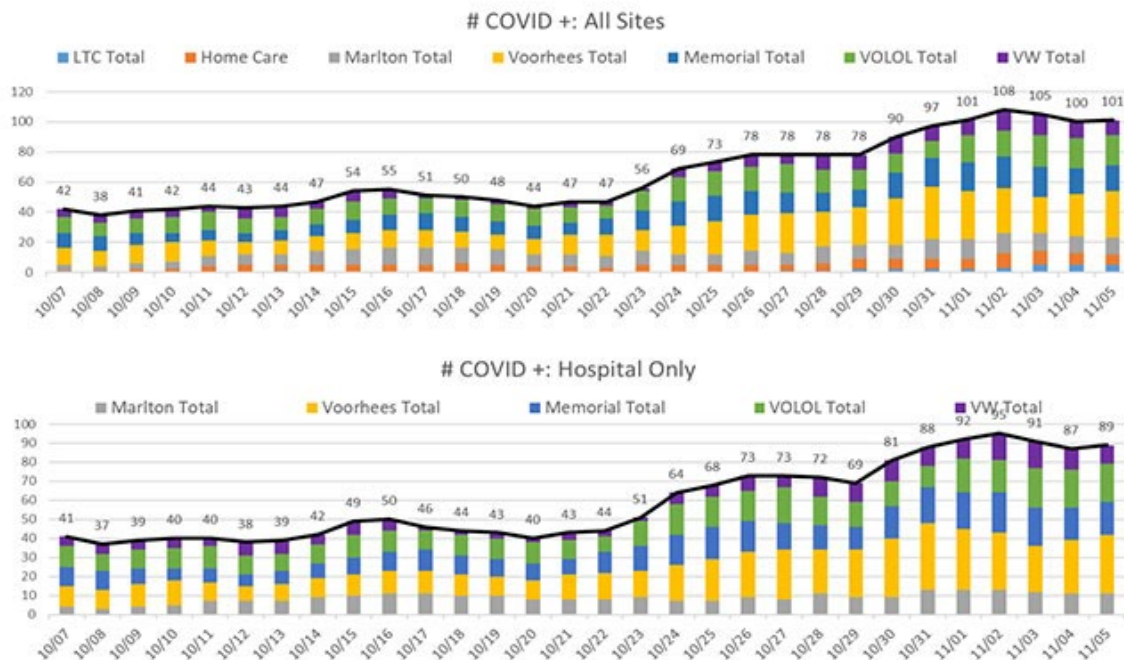
Gratefully,

Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE  
President and CEO

## COVID-19 Corner Preparing for Fall Surge

As New Jersey’s COVID-19 cases mimic national trends upward, Virtua is preparing for a potential new surge in hospitalizations. We are actively monitoring the situation regionally and within Virtua facilities to be sure we are fully resourced to care for our patients in both the acute and ambulatory care environments.

Last spring, thanks to support from our medical staff, we were able to care for our patients and support our fellow colleagues. We want to assure our clinical team that Virtua continues to assess the situation and stands ready to activate appropriate plans should they be needed.



### Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is currently at 1.26.
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 1,307 confirmed deaths, as of 1 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 101 fatalities.

- The total number of cases are as follows:
  - Burlington County 9,020
  - Camden County 12,497
  - Gloucester County 5,937

## Personal Protective Equipment — A Top Priority

As COVID-19 numbers increase within our region and across the country, the conservation of personal protective equipment (PPE) is a top priority.

- Continue to conserve disposable stethoscopes throughout the pandemic. Keep disposable stethoscopes at the bedside and clean them after use with disinfecting wipes. Upon patient discharge, environmental services will include stethoscopes in the terminal cleaning process.
- One disposable thermometer should be used during an entire patient stay and then be discarded.
- Be mindful to remove gloves from the glove box one at a time to prevent unintended waste.

Thank you for your continued dedication to safety.

## Travel Advisory

On **Nov. 4**, the State of New Jersey updated its 14-day quarantine travel advisory. Oregon and Washington were added. In total, 43 states and U.S. jurisdictions meet the travel advisory criteria. [Click here](#) to view the complete list and additional details.

Virtua colleagues traveling to those states or traveling internationally are required to call the colleague hotline at 609-444-2828 upon return for guidance and return-to-work instructions. Colleagues who traveled to or from these areas, provided they are not exhibiting symptoms, will return to work. Should screening indicate that a 14-day period of self-monitoring is required before returning to work, colleagues may be required to use their own paid time off and/or may need to take time off on an unpaid basis if no paid time off is available.

Colleague travel to one of the 43 states and U.S. jurisdictions is strongly discouraged to ensure the health and safety of you, your family, your fellow colleagues, and patients.

This message clarifies an article in yesterday's *Clinician Update* regarding the Fit to Work Definition.

**Attention: Self- Attestation** *(content updated 11/6/20)*

All Virtua colleagues are expected to self-monitor and attest to their wellness each day upon entering Virtua and when badging into API or logging into Epic and Wellsoft.

The Fit to Work definition is:

- Temperature is less than 100.0
- No accompanying flu-like respiratory symptoms
- No persistent cough
- No congestion or runny nose
- No shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- No sore throat
- No muscle/body aches or pains
- No new loss of taste or smell
- No persistent fatigue
- No persistent headaches
- No gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms outlined above, do not report to work. Follow your standard process when calling out of work and then call the colleague hotline at **609-444-2828**.

To view and print the Fit to Work [flyer](#) and [poster](#), visit the [Brand Hub](#).

## **New Visiting Guidelines at Virtua**

Virtua Health introduced new visitor guidelines at its hospitals on **Nov. 2**. General visiting hours are now 3 to 7 p.m. every day of the week. Hospital patients may receive one visitor each, and it must be the same person throughout the patient's hospital stay.

For department-by-department exceptions, please [click here](#), and please help spread the word of these revised visiting hours among your teams. A PDF flyer is available on the [Virtua Brand Hub](#).

## **Add Your Phone to the COVID Fight**

[COVID Alert NJ](#) is New Jersey's free and secure mobile app that anonymously alerts users if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The app also provides users with up-to-date information on New Jersey reopening news, key COVID-19 metrics, and a user-friendly symptom tracking tool.

COVID Alert NJ uses Bluetooth proximity technology and works through an underlying system developed by Google and Apple. A user's app detects and logs Bluetooth devices that have been within six feet of the user for 10 minutes or longer. These devices then exchange anonymous codes. If one of the users tests positive within the next 14 days, they will be contacted by a public health representative and provided with a validation code. After a positive user enters the validation code into the app, the app will retrieve all of the random codes collected over the preceding 14 days and will send an anonymous notification to those individuals who have potentially been exposed to COVID-19, along with appropriate next steps.

Users only need to download one COVID Alert app from their state of residence. NJ, NY, DE, and PA have worked together as a region to ensure all COVID Alert apps will work across the states. COVID Alert NJ can be downloaded from the App Store for iPhone users and the Google Play Store for Android users. Visit <http://covid19.nj.gov/app> to learn more.

## **Annual Mandatory Conflict of Interest Disclosure Available on Virtua Works**

The deadline to complete the Conflict of Interest has been extended to **Monday, November 16**. All Virtua-employed health care providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants) as well as colleagues, who are, director level and above, are required to complete the annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Attestation.

The Conflict of Interest Disclosure Attestation is available on the home page of Virtua Works. Please click on the [Compliance announcement](#). Questions and comments are welcome. Should you have any questions, please contact Ryan Peoples, Compliance Manager (856-355-0729), or Raquel Ravelo, Corporate Compliance Auditor (856-355-0792).

## **NPPES Database – Are You Up to Date?**

As reported in [last week's Clinician Update](#), implementation for most requirements of the [21st Century Cures Act](#) has been postponed until April 5. However, **the Nov. 2 deadline to update National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) profiles remains in effect**. This requires, requiring physicians to update their digital contact information through the [NPPES](#) database. The goal is to create one source of truth for physician verification across the nation. Providers who fail to comply will be publicly reported, but more importantly, it is expected to impact quality incentive payments.

Virtua will update its employed physicians' profiles, but clinicians who are not part of Virtua Medical Group will need to complete this task or assign a staff member as a designee to contact the NPPES.

All Virtua providers can check their Direct Address that Virtua currently lists for them via this [link](#) in our [Cures Act Resource](#) section found within Digital 411.

**Virtua's Real Talk Women's Health Chats: Cooking From the Heart: Recipe for a Healthy Holiday  
Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m.**

Celebrity nutritionist and bestselling cookbook author Zonya Foco, RDN, chats with Virtua cardiologist Maria Duca, MD, about delicious, heart-healthy recipes the whole family will love this holiday season and beyond. You don't want to miss this holiday treat!

If you know a patient or someone who could benefit from this session, please share the following link to register: <https://go.virtua.org/realtalk>.