

Clinician Update

Oct. 21, 2021

Missed Our 2021 Medical Staff Annual Meetings? Watch Online

Virtua's respective medical staffs held their annual meetings this week. If you missed them, we made a recording of the events:

- Here for [Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Camden and Virtua Willingboro](#) hospitals.
- Here for [Virtua Marlton, Virtua Mount Holly, and Virtua Voorhees](#) hospitals.

At the meetings, lots of great information was shared by physician and hospital leadership, especially news on the forthcoming enhancements to our campuses. The highlight of the programs included messages from the medical staff presidents and the announcement of this year's honored award recipients.

Congratulations to this year's awardees:

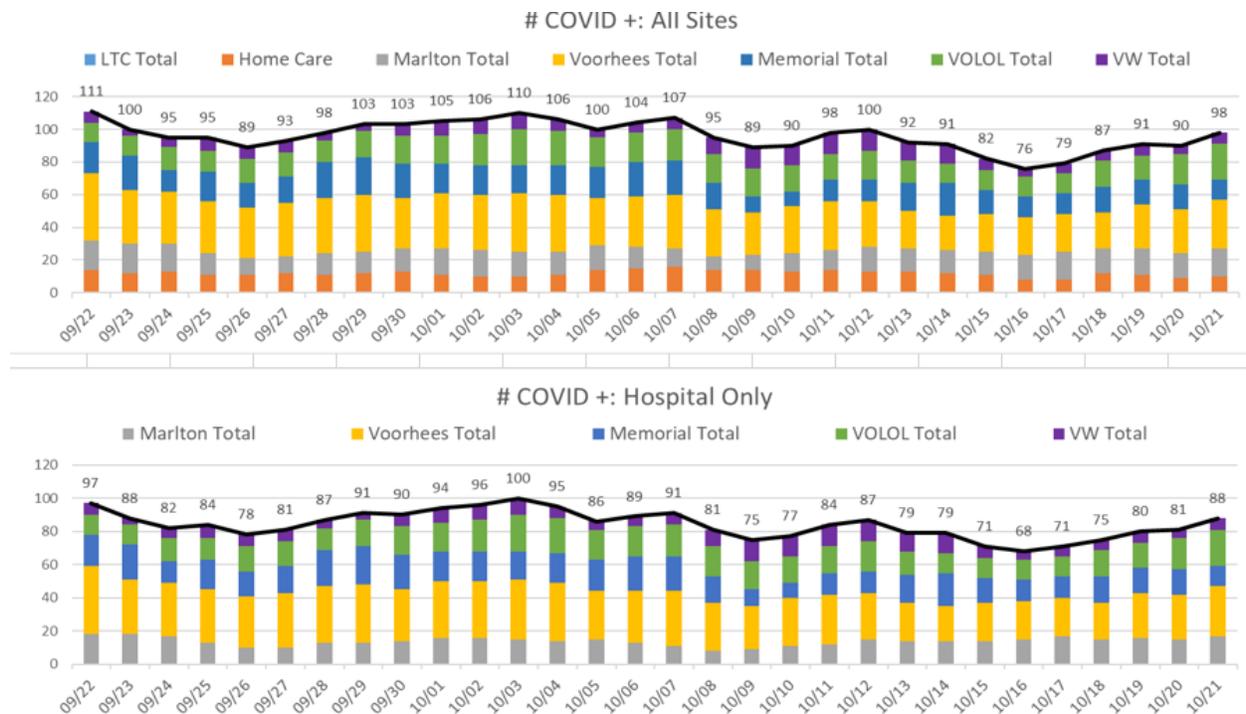
- Virtua Memorial Hospital:
 - President's Award: Jamie Strause, APN
 - Physician Recognition Award: Rupa Kashyp, MD
 - Distinguished Career Award: Jeffrey Kutscher, MD
- Virtua Voorhees Hospital & Virtua Marlton Hospital:
 - President's Award: Raul Berio-Dorta, MD
 - Physician Recognition Award: Nicole Lamborne, MD
 - Distinguished Career Award: Robert Singer, MD

Virtua's EP Team First in Nation to Implant Investigational Defibrillation Lead

Virtua heart rhythm specialist Aatish Garg, MD, under the leadership of Darius Sholevar, MD, Virtua chief of electrophysiology, enrolled the very first U.S. patient in study of an investigational defibrillation lead designed to treat people with ventricular tachycardia (VT). Virtua is one of 47 hospitals worldwide participating in a clinical trial called the Lead Evaluation for Defibrillation and Reliability (LEADR). The LEADR study, sponsored by Medtronic, will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an investigational, catheter-delivered lead in adult patients who have previously experienced, or are at significant risk of developing, VT. The lead is paired with commercially available Medtronic defibrillators.

Participation in the study highlights the work of Virtua's Clinical Research program. In recent years, the program has expanded and evolved, adding to its capabilities (in therapeutic areas like oncology and women's health) by joining with the former Lourdes team that primarily focused cardiac research. Virtua Clinical Research is overseeing more than 150 studies. To learn more about the LEADR trial, contact coordinator Marisa Brown at mbrown3@virtua.org. For information specific to cardiac trials, contact Dr. Sholevar at dsholevar@virtua.org.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is 0.87.
- The total number of cases as of 3 p.m. are as follows:
 - Burlington County: 45,665 cases
 - Camden County: 58,285cases
 - Gloucester County: 32,193 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties: 2,852.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reports 12,150,769 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Schedule Your COVID-19 Booster

Virtua Health has issued more scheduling notifications to eligible colleagues to receive booster doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at the Virtua Barry D. Brown Health Education Center (HEC). Appointments are available through October.

The Information Technology team sent scheduling notices via MyChart to colleagues who received their initial Pfizer vaccine series at the HEC by/before mid-February, or at pop-up clinics held at Virtua hospitals.

Colleagues with MyChart will receive notification through that platform, likely by way of an email from donotreply@virtua.org. Colleagues who initially received the Pfizer vaccine at the HEC and have not received a scheduling notice can email covidmegasite@virtua.org to request a booster appointment.

Please remember to bring your Vaccination Record Card with you to your appointment.

Note: Walk-up vaccinations are **not** presently available. When selecting a date/time in MyChart, be sure to hit the red "Schedule" button in order to lock-in your appointment. You will be taken to a confirmation page and will likely receive a confirmation email (based on your communications settings).

Colleagues are strongly encouraged to get their booster if they are eligible. Nationally recognized medical analyst Dr. Leana Wen appeared on CNN this week to discuss COVID-19 vaccines and if they can help to prevent a resurgence of the virus this winter.

Dr. Wen said, "It's encouraging that COVID-19 infection numbers are falling from the terrible delta wave that consumed the country this summer. However, another wave of infections is possible, especially with only 57% of the US population fully vaccinated. I agree with Dr. Fauci, who said 'the degree to which we continue to come down in that slope will depend on how well we get more people vaccinated.'"

In response to those who believe the vaccines are ineffective, Dr. Wen discussed one of the "main conundrums" in public health. She said, "While you see the end result if and when prevention fails, you don't see all the lives saved because of prevention."

Click [here](#) to watch Dr. Wen's interview or to read the transcript. Dr. Wen was also a guest on Virtua's *Here for Good* podcast in August 2020. Watch her conversation with CEO Dennis W. Pullin [here](#).

Update: Flu Vaccination Program

Thank you to all the Virtua colleagues who have already received and recorded their yearly flu shot. **To date, 53.53% of colleagues have received the vaccination.**

The deadline to receive the flu vaccine and remain in compliance with Virtua's mandatory flu vaccination program is 11:59 p.m. on **Tuesday, Nov. 2**. Effective **Wednesday, Nov. 3** at 12:01 a.m., colleagues who have not been vaccinated or did not present an approved exemption form are considered non-compliant.

View the [schedule](#) for upcoming Virtua flu clinics below:

- **Friday, Oct. 22:** Virtua Health & Rehabilitation Center – Mount Holly, Rehab Gym, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Monday, Oct. 25:** Virtua Mount Holly Hospital, Art Gallery, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 27:** Virtua Voorhees Hospital, Cafeteria, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 28:** Virtua Corporate Office (303 Lippincott Drive), GE Conference Room 1&2, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For additional details about the flu vaccination program, click on the [Colleague Flu Button](#) on the VINE. Questions are welcome. Email flu@virtua.org or call 856-761-3900, option 2.

Virtua Welcomes New Colleague Community: VirtuAsia

Virtua is proud to introduce our newest Colleague Community: VirtuAsia. The group is committed to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community by raising awareness of Asia's diverse cultures, supporting professional and personal growth to nurture advancement opportunities, and bringing the voices of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders into the organization.

VirtuAsia will be led by executive ambassador Sarah Fawcett-Lee and co-chairs Liny Joseph and Grace Roche.

VirtuAsia will hold its kick-off event, “VirtuAsia: Unity in Diversity,” on **Tuesday, Nov. 9** at 5 p.m. Join President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin along with members of VirtuAsia. The event will include interactive discussions about Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures and their many contributions to our communities. All colleagues are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Join by registering [here](#) or visit the Virtua Learning System and search for “VirtuAsia.”

All That We Are—Celebrating Global Diversity

Join us on **Wednesday, Oct. 27** from 3 to 4:30 p.m. as we sit down with Virtua’s four Colleague Communities (Women of Virtua, Black and African American, OUT at Virtua, and the newly formed VirtuAsia) in a panel discussion where we explore how our diversity can both set us apart and bring us together. During the discussion, participants will have the opportunity to engage the panel with questions and through their smart devices. Additionally, participants can anonymously submit questions to the panel ahead of the forum through this [link](#). Click to [register for the virtual event](#).

Awareness and Recognition

Oct. 17 to 23 is Health Care Quality Week! Amid the global pandemic, quality has taken center stage. We extend our gratitude to the quality directors, risk safety managers, and infection prevention managers for their dedication to quality and safety as an integral part of the patient experience.

This week also recognizes [medical assistants](#). From the moment patients walk into their physician’s practice, our medical assistants have patients’ best interests at heart while performing a wide array of tasks. Their hard work and dedication help make patients’ visits run smoothly and the provider’s day run efficiently. Truly, they are the superheroes of the practice and the embodiment of being “Here for Good”! If you haven’t already, be sure to thank the medical assistants in your office for their service.

Annual Mandatory Conflict of Interest Disclosure Available on Virtua Works

Virtua Health colleagues who are director level and above, and all employed health care providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants), are required to complete the annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Attestation by **Sunday, Oct. 31**. Conflict of interest is any relationship which is (or appears to be) not in the best interest of Virtua Health and those we serve. This would include any personal business or financial benefit received from any decision or action taken for Virtua Health. Please click [here](#) for the Conflict of Interest policy.

Currently, **fewer than 39% of staff** have completed the annual Conflict of Interest form.

The Conflict of Interest Disclosure Attestation is available on the home page of Virtua Works. Please click on the Compliance announcement in Virtua Works. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ryan Peoples, Compliance Manager, 856-355-0729, or Raquel Ravelo, Corporate Compliance Auditor, 856-355-0792.

Help Your Community by Giving Blood

One good turn deserves another. We invite you to join your Virtua colleagues in helping the American Red Cross maintain a sufficient blood supply. The Red Cross will host several blood drives at various Virtua locations in the weeks ahead, including:

Friday, Oct. 29

Virtua William G. Rohrer Fitness Center, 3 to 7 p.m.
Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Voorhees, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 2

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

Thursday, Nov. 4

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

Friday, Nov. 19

Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Voorhees, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 30

Virtua Mount Holly Hospital, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 4

Virtua Mount Holly Hospital, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 6

303 Lippincott Drive, Marlton, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 13

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



Signing up for blood drives is quick and easy. Appointments are preferred. Scan the QR code here or click to [sign up](#) and use sponsor code “Virtua.” We encourage all first-time donors to view this [video](#).