

Clinician Update

Oct. 22, 2020

Important Safety Message from President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin

Please take a moment to [view this video](#) from Dennis Pullin, with a special message on the pandemic and Virtua's preparations for the fall and winter months when cases are expected to rise.

Virtua Celebrates Roll Out of the Eat Well Mobile Grocery Store

This week, Virtua Health debuted its Eat Well Mobile Grocery Store. This converted NJ Transit bus will bring healthy, affordable foods to South Jersey neighborhoods-in-need alongside its counterpart program, the Eat Well Mobile Farmers Market. This is the only mobile grocery store in the region and one of very few in the entire nation. Discover how Virtua is changing the conversation on food access in this compilation of clips from local broadcast news. Click [here](#) to view.

Cures Act Coming Soon

Big changes are coming to electronic medical records (EMRs), resulting from some new regulations that will be going into effect in the coming months. The [21st Century Cures Act](#) requires health care providers to immediately release information that previously had been delayed or not viewable to the patient. This includes the clinician's written notes as well as consultation and procedure notes, discharge summaries, imaging, lab, and pathology reports. The Act also requires clinicians to register with the NPPES (National Provider Plan and Enumeration System).

The implementation of the Cures Act is an opportunity for Virtua Health to demonstrate its commitment to transparency and patient empowerment. In response, Virtua has established a multidisciplinary steering committee that has been working to prepare the organization for these changes, addressing each of the requirements and preparing communications to share with our clinical staff. Be aware that Epic clinicians will have their EMR and profiles updated. **For clinicians who are utilizing other, non-Epic EMR systems, we advise you reach out to your EMR vendor to be sure they are ready for these changes.** You should also contact the [NPPES](#) to update your profile.

The Cures Act promotes patient engagement and open dialog. [Open Notes](#), an advocacy group committed to immediate access of patient records, and to studying its effects, provides resources for consumers and health care professionals. Organizations that have already taken an "Open Notes" approach report that a number of positive outcomes, better communication, increased patient satisfaction, and improved accuracy and safety.

We will share additional information and resources on the Cures Act in next week's *Clinician Update*.

COVID-19 Corner

Travel Advisory

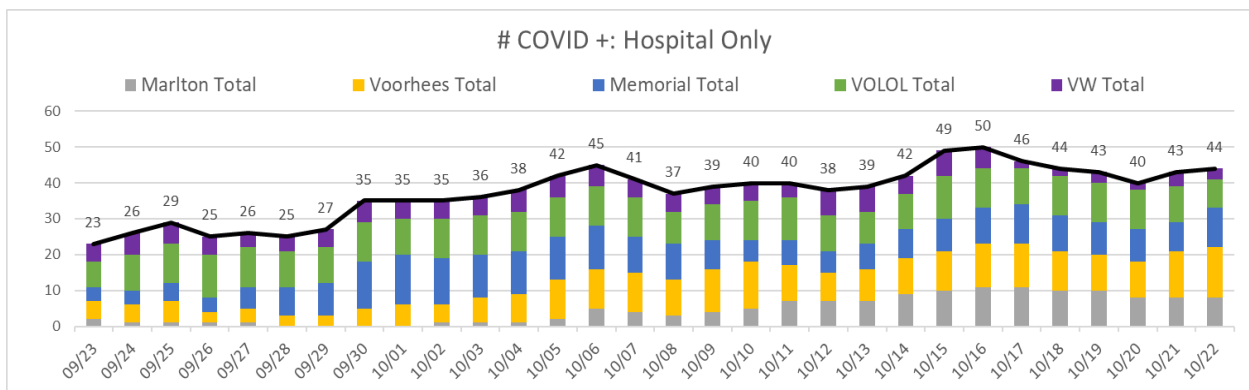
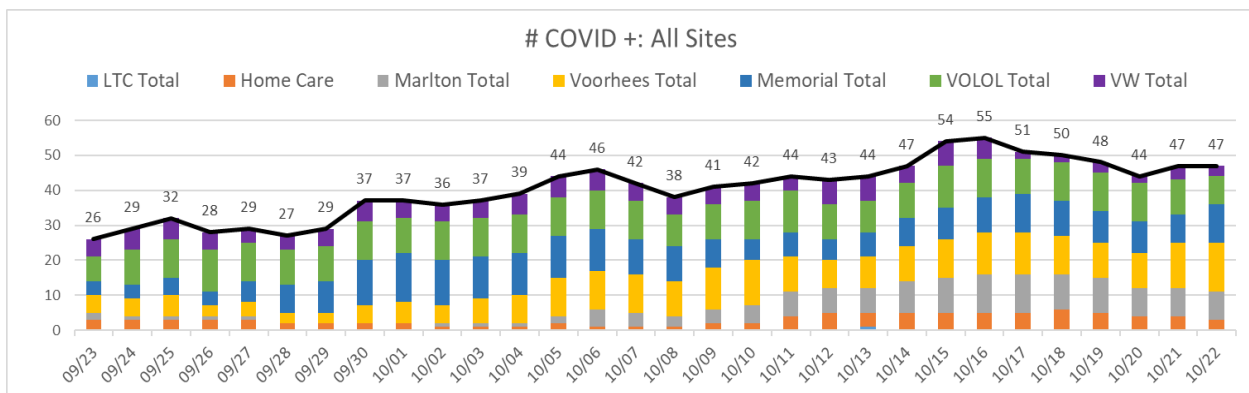
Today, Gov. Phil Murphy advised all New Jersey residents to avoid unnecessary interstate travel given the recent increases in COVID-19 cases here and in neighboring states. If you must travel, the State of New Jersey has updated its 14-day quarantine travel advisory. Arizona and Maryland were added. As of

Oct. 20, 39 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.

By the Numbers

The following charts reflect the latest figures for Virtua-site cases of COVID-19.



Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is currently at 1.17.
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 1,270 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 8,028
 - Camden County 11,071
 - Gloucester County 5,305

VPP Annual Meeting Nov. 10

VirtuaPhysicianPartners is holding its annual meeting on **Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 6 to 7 p.m.** The event **will be virtual** and will be the final full membership meeting for VPP as we transition to a single clinically integrated network in 2021. Agenda and login details are forthcoming and will be sent via an Outlook invite. The meeting will focus on this year's results and future plans for integration.

As a reminder, each practice must send at least one clinical representative to attend the annual meeting. For more information, contact Alice Went at AWent@virtua.org.

Virtua Accolades

Virtua is proud to share some of our recent accolades, honors, and awards from national organizations who recognize our colleagues and teams for delivering high-quality care to our patients, as well as moving our organization forward in the field of health care technology.

Virtua has been named a Most Wired health system in the U.S. by The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) for the seventh consecutive year. Virtua has earned recognition as a certified level 9, which identifies Virtua as a health care technology leader that is actively pushing the industry forward. According to CHIME, level 9 and 10 organizations “often leverage these technologies in innovative ways and have encouraged deep adoption across their entire organization. As a result, they are realizing meaningful outcomes, including improved quality of care, improved patient experience, reduced costs, and broader patient access to healthcare services.”

“The Most Wired designation is a key measurement that highlights the successful efforts of our colleagues who work tirelessly to deliver patient-centric solutions focusing on care, intelligence, and innovation,” said Tom Gordon, Virtua chief information officer. “I am fortunate to work with an incredible team. Without their skill and dedication, Virtua technology would not be where it is today.”

The Virtua Joint Replacement Institute was honored with the PRISM Award co-sponsored by the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN) and the Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board. PRISM stands for Premier Recognition in the Specialty of Med-surg. The AMSN PRISM Award provides special recognition to the exemplary practice of medical-surgical units, recognizing not only the professional registered nurse, but the entire interdisciplinary team working together to achieve outstanding patient outcomes and customer loyalty.

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital received the Get with the Guidelines – Heart Failure Silver Plus Achievement Award. Every year, the American Heart Association recognizes hospitals that demonstrate commitment to applying the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes.

Virtua in the News

Journalists often turn to Virtua for important information and highlight our exceptional services and colleagues. Here are some recent examples:

New tools, techniques are revolutionizing breast cancer care: The Central Record interviewed Virtua's Dr. Elizabeth Revesz about advancements in breast cancer care, including better cosmetic outcomes for

patients. Read [here](#).

Medical Mystery: Why did a healthy man suddenly have heart failure and severe stomach pain? Virtua gastroenterologist Dr. Charles Snyder writes about an unusual case – and how he and his colleagues solved it – in the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* popular “Medical Mysteries” column. Read [here](#). (Do you have a medical mystery you’d like to share? Let us know at VirtuaClinician@virtua.org.)

2020 Best 50 Women in Business: This special edition of NJ Biz magazine spotlights innovative women business leaders who are making a positive impact on New Jersey. Chrisie Scott, Virtua’s senior VP and chief marketing officer, is among the honorees. Click [here](#) and find Chrisie on page 27.

New Jersey health officials brace for fall COVID-19 surge: As New Jersey’s numbers go up, doctors are preparing for the flu and a rise in COVID-19 cases this fall. Dr. Amanda Griffin, lead physician at Virtua Primary Care in Moorestown, provided her insights for this 6ABC story. Watch [here](#).