

## Clinician Update October 28, 2021

### **An Important Update on the *Philadelphia Magazine* Top Docs Survey - New: Nov. 8 Deadline**

We last reported an end-of-year deadline for nominating a colleague for the annual Castle Connolly survey. While that is correct—their survey extends throughout the year for the following year's published results and is the source for several "top docs" publications lists—we've just learned that nominations for the 2022 Top Doctors issue of *Philadelphia Magazine* has a much earlier date, **Nov. 8, 2022**.

The link we provided previously remains the same at [www.castleconnolly.com/nominations](http://www.castleconnolly.com/nominations) and still requires a registration [using your NPI number](#). However, to ensure your nomination meets the *Philadelphia Magazine* deadline, you need to enter the nomination code, **"2021"** when you register at the nomination site. Using that code will ensure your nomination makes it in time for the 2022 Philly Mag Top Docs issue, which typically comes out in May.

We apologize for the change in date, as there was a delay in the magazine's outreach to Virtua.

### **Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters at Virtua Health**

In compliance with the CDC's recommendations regarding booster doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine, Virtua has started scheduling appointments for eligible colleagues at the Barry D. Brown Health Education Center (HEC).

The IT team is sending scheduling notifications via MyChart to colleagues who received their initial series of the Moderna vaccine at the HEC. The notices will come likely by way of an email from [donotreply@virtua.org](mailto:donotreply@virtua.org). Eligible colleagues without MyChart will receive an email or text message.

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).

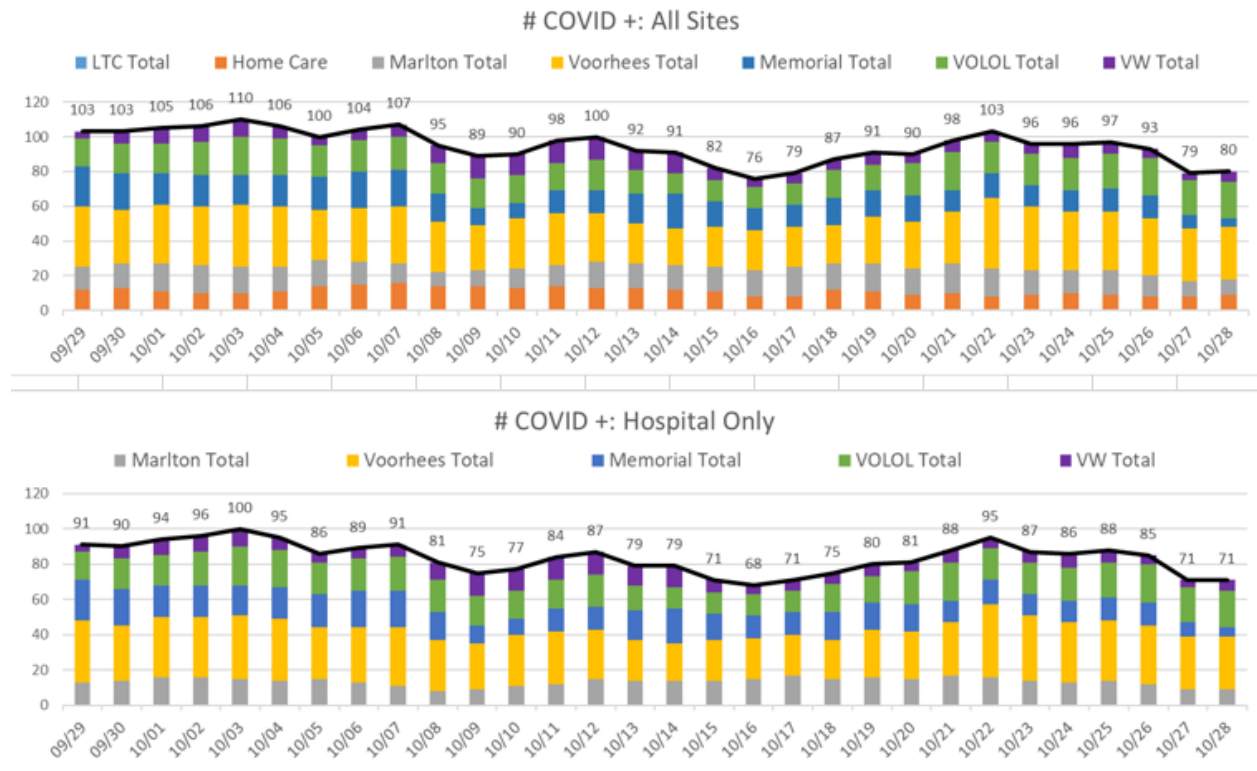
Please remember the following before attending your booster appointment at the HEC.

- Use the eCheck-in feature in MyChart up to 48 hours before your appointment to quicken registration.
- **Bring your CDC Vaccination Record Card to your appointment.** If you are in need of a replacement card, please click [here](#) to access the request form.
- Park in the designated area. Consult [the map](#) before your vaccine appointment to ensure you park your vehicle in the correct area at the HEC.
- Wear a mask and practice social distancing during your vaccine appointment.

**To Note:** For simplicity and a straightforward process, Virtua will provide colleagues who originally received the Moderna vaccine with a Moderna booster. The same is true for Pfizer recipients. Anyone who prefers to receive a vaccine that is different from their previous series can visit a pharmacy or non-Virtua clinic for their booster. To find a vaccination site and book an appointment online, visit [covid19.nj.gov/finder](https://covid19.nj.gov/finder).

If you receive your booster outside of Virtua, please submit a verification via email to [covidvaccinedocumentation@virtua.org](mailto:covidvaccinedocumentation@virtua.org). Please include your employee ID number and photo of the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card.

## COVID-19 Census



### Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is 0.85.
- The total number of cases as of 3 p.m. are as follows:
  - Burlington County: 46,122 cases
  - Camden County: 58,825 cases
  - Gloucester County: 32,551 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties: 2,864.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reports 12,364,347 doses of vaccine have been administered.

### Wide-Awake Hand Surgery Offers New Options

In many cases, rest, medication, braces, and physical therapy will help relieve hand and wrist pain. For injuries that do require surgery, an innovative approach performed without general anesthesia can speed patients' return to everyday activities.

The technique, known as wide-awake local anesthesia, no tourniquet (WALANT), may be done in the surgeon's office, and in the same time as a normal appointment. Preoperative blood work and fasting

are not required, and patients may not need to stop their blood thinners. Patients experience faster recovery and less postoperative pain.

Conditions commonly treated with WALANT include trigger finger, tendon and ligament repairs, removal of masses and small tumors, and contractures.

“Patients are comfortable during the procedure without experiencing the side effects of full sedation,” said Virtua hand and upper extremity surgeon Nathan Bodin, MD. “As they are wide awake, they can participate in the surgery, allowing our surgical team to check the integrity of the repair and make any necessary adjustments before we leave the procedure room.”

Click [here](#) to learn more about Virtua’s hand surgeons.

### **Oncology Latest in Virtua’s *Today* Medical Education Series**

[Oncology Today](#) is the latest in Virtua’s newsletter series designed to educate clinicians on the latest therapeutic options and innovative approaches within our specialty services. This month’s issue features oncology services and the Penn Medicine | Virtua Cancer Program.

Our library of publications for and about Virtua clinicians has a home base on [Digital 411](#), found under [“Additional Resources/Clinician Publications.”](#) There, you can find archived copies of previous issues.

Printed copies are available. Just email [VirtuaClinician@virtua.org](mailto:VirtuaClinician@virtua.org).

### **Virtua Turns Out Big for the Annual Heart Walk**

As a way of promoting healthy hearts and working together to defeat heart disease and stroke in South Jersey, Virtua sponsored the American Heart Association’s (AHA) Fall Heart Walk on Oct. 23 at RiverWinds in West Deptford.

Virtua colleagues came through in a big way—finishing as the “Top Company” with 19 teams representing more than 200 walkers. AHA marveled at the “high energy and excitement” from Virtua participants. Click to view colleagues chanting “Here for Good” in this [video](#).

The top five fundraising teams were Virtua Information Services, led by Julia Staas and Jennifer Lewis; Virtua Cardiology, led by Laura Gordon; Rehab Rockstars, led by Renee Lombo; Virtua Colleague, Community & Friends, led by Dodi Iannaco; and Team Child Development Center, led by Nancy Morgan. Additionally, Virtua’s Chris Rinaldi served as the DJ and Amber Maculewicz sang the national anthem.

This year proved once again that WE’ve got heart. And the biggest hearts were found among the exceptional Virtua leadership team who made this the most successful walk in years: Dorothy “Dodi” Iannaco, NP, Virtua Urgent Care; Joe Bisicchia, director of public affairs; and Virtua Community Health program manager John George.

### **Mandatory Flu Vaccination Program Closes Next Week**

The deadline for Virtua colleagues 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. **To date, 59.86% of colleagues have received the vaccination.**

View the [schedule](#) for upcoming Virtua flu clinics. All colleagues who receive their flu shots outside of Virtua must scan and email proof of vaccination with the following information to [flu@virtua.org](mailto:flu@virtua.org):

- Colleague Name
- Colleague ID Number
- Date of Vaccination
- Vaccine Lot Number
- Vaccine Expiration Date
- Administered in Left/Right Arm
- Who Administered the Vaccine
- Address of Where the Vaccine Administered

**Note:** There is a five-business-day delay for documentation review and processing. Please do not send multiple emails to [flu@virtua.org](mailto:flu@virtua.org) unless further documentation is requested.

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

### **Virtua's Inclusion, Diversity & Equity Journey**

The Virtua Colleague Communities are proud to present these upcoming events as WE continue our Inclusion, Diversity & Equity journey. All colleagues are welcome and encouraged to attend.

- **Tuesday, Nov 9: VirtuAsia: Unity in Diversity**

Join President and CEO **Dennis W. Pullin**, along with members of VirtuAsia, on **Tuesday, Nov. 9** at 5 p.m. "VirtuAsia: Unity in Diversity" will include interactive discussions about Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures and their many contributions to our communities.

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

- **Thursday, Nov. 11: The Power of WE**

Join the Black & African American Colleague Community and the Women of Virtua for their first collaborative community event on **Thursday, Nov. 11** at 5 p.m. "The Power of WE" will feature **Judge Victoria Pratt**, whose personal story demonstrates her passion for people and respect and inclusion for all. Join by registering [here](#) or visit the Virtua Learning System. Learn more about Judge Pratt's message and journey in this [Ted Talk](#).

### **News from the Heart**

Get some #hellogood moments in your day by reading the fall issue of *HeartTalk*, our quarterly magazine filled with health advice from our clinicians, testimonials from patients, and information about Virtua's programs aimed at improving your health and well-being.

Included in this issue are key steps to lowering blood pressure, tips for ordering healthier takeout, new procedures to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and how Virtua experts address irregular heart rhythms. Click to access the digital and PDF versions of [HeartTalk](#).

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

Virtua 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**.

Currently, **54%** have completed the annual Conflict of Interest.

The Conflict of Interest Disclosure Attestation is available on the homepage of Virtua Works. Please click on the Compliance announcement. Should you have any questions, please contact Ryan Peoples, compliance manager, at 856-355-0729, or Raquel Ravelo, corporate compliance auditor, at 856-355-0792.

### **Important Apple Device iOS Update Required**

The IT department advises all Apple device owners to apply the latest update (15.0.2), which was just released from Apple to patch a critical vulnerability. If your device version is less than 15.0.2 for iOS/iPadOS, or 11.6. for MacOS Big Sur, your device is at risk of being compromised.

#### **What does this mean?**

Attackers that successfully exploit this vulnerability can steal data or install malware onto your device. This puts your personal information as well as confidential Virtua information at risk.

#### **What do I need to do?**

Apply the latest software update to your personal device.

#### **Which updates do I need?**

- iOS and iPadOS to version 15.0.2
- MacOS Big Sur to version 11.6

#### **What do I need to do if my Apple device syncs Virtua email?**

- Update your iPhone, iPad to the required iOS version.
- Acquire a device that is compatible with the required versions of iOS and MacOS.
  - Older devices will not support the latest iOS upgrade and can't be patched.
  - Older devices will not support the most current critical security updates.

#### **Why can't I continue to use my current/older device for syncing Virtua email without the upgrade?**

Any device without the required security updates will be restricted from syncing Virtua email for security protection reasons.

#### **How do I update my device?**

Follow these Apple steps to update your device:

1. Plug your device into power and connect to the internet with Wi-Fi.
2. Go to Settings > General, then tap “Software Update.”
3. If you see two software update options available, choose the one that you want to install.
4. Tap “Install Now.” If you see “Download and Install” instead, tap it to download the update, enter your passcode, then tap “Install Now.” If you don't know your passcode, learn what to do.
5. You might see that your device is up-to-date on its current version, and there's an update available. For example, even if your device is up-to-date on the latest version of iOS 14, there might be an option to update to iOS 15.

**What if my device is an older model and cannot be updated to the required versions?**

- Acquire a device that is compatible with the required versions of iOS and MacOS.
- Older devices will not support the latest iOS upgrade and can't be patched.
- Older devices will not support the most current critical security updates.

**A few tips to keep in mind:**

- Do not download, accept, or execute files from untrusted and unknown sources.
- Do not visit untrusted websites or follow links provided by untrusted or unknown sources.

Thank you in advance for protecting your device and Virtua.

**Visit with Virtua's Furry Friends**

Virtua's Visiting Paws pet therapy program invites colleagues to spend quality time with furry friends outside Virtua's hospitals. These pups are Here for Good—and here for belly scratches. View the schedule below.

**Virtua Voorhees Hospital**

**Thursday, Nov. 4, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

Outside, Cafeteria Area

**Virtua Marlton Hospital**

**Thursday, Nov. 11, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

Outside, Main Entrance

**Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital**

**Thursday, Nov. 18, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

Outside, Main Entrance

**Virtua Mount Holly Hospital**

**Friday, Nov. 19, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

Outside, Main Entrance

**Virtua Willingboro Hospital**

**Thursday, Nov. 25, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

Outside, Main Entrance

Please connect with Katelynn Hewitt at [mhewitt@virtua.org](mailto:mhewitt@virtua.org) or call x72676 with any questions.  
Click to view the [flyer](#).