

## Clinician Update

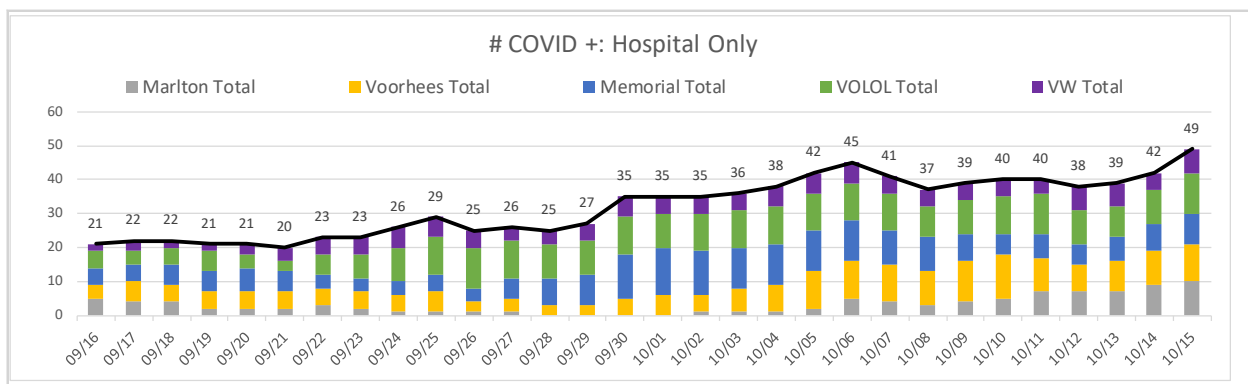
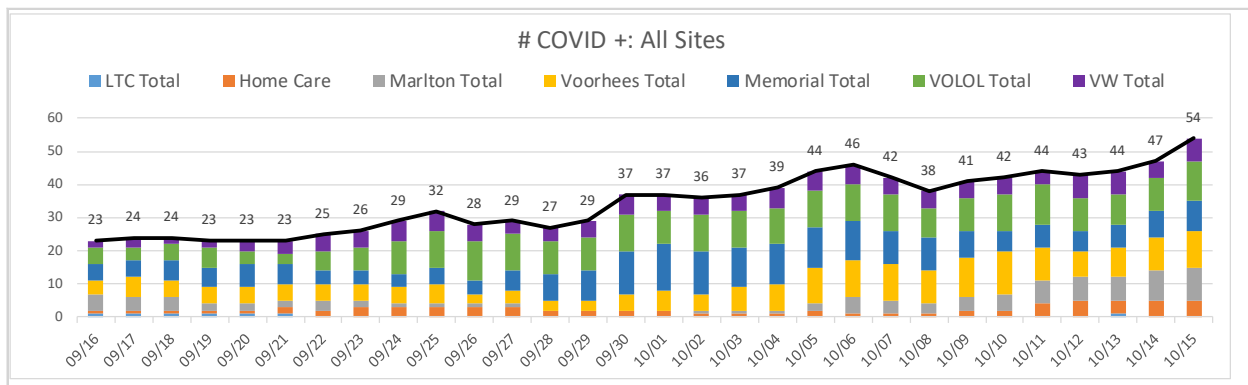
October 15, 2020

### COVID-19 Corner

Virtua has reconvened the weekly COVID-19 Incident Management Team Meetings to support our clinicians and facilities during a time of rising cases in the community and hospitalizations. Please continue to look to *Clinician Update* and the Coronavirus Update page on the VINE to stay informed.

### 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 1.16.
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 1,253 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 7,703
  - Camden County 10,646
  - Gloucester County 5,072

### Travel Advisory Update

On **Oct. 13**, the State of New Jersey updated its 14-day quarantine travel advisory. Michigan, Ohio, and Virginia were added. In total, 38 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 38 states and U.S. jurisdictions is strongly discouraged to ensure the health and safety of you, your family, your fellow colleagues, and patients.

### **How *U.S. News Physician Survey* Influences Best Hospital Ratings**

Physician surveys have long been a part of influential *U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals* methodology. Recent changes in the process, however, provide an opportunity for physicians to participate directly in the survey, with certain deadlines looming in the next few months. In addition, it is important to highlight how one's [Doximity](#) membership may make it easier and more likely to engage with the survey tool.

As background, the *U.S. News* physician survey asks medical specialists to identify hospitals providing care for complex or challenging diagnoses. A third-party organization analyzes the results and constructs a specialty-specific expert opinion score for each hospital. These scores are then combined with other measures, such as risk-adjusted survival, among other data sets.

Doximity, the professional network for physicians, is referred to as the "LinkedIn for doctors," boasting the largest community of health care professionals, offering opportunities for networking, building referrals, and medical education. Through Doximity's close partnership with *U.S. News*, the opportunity to contribute to the hospital survey is enhanced as they solicit select members to complete the survey electronically, targeting all survey-eligible physicians (as defined by their board certifications). A random selection of non-Doximity users are also surveyed, but clearly the greater chance to influence outcomes remains with users of the service. [Link here](#) to learn more about how the 2021 survey will be conducted, including deadlines, and a new initiative to incorporate greater inclusion for osteopaths.

### **New Minimally Invasive Procedure Removes Blood Clots from the Lungs, Saving Lives**

The heart team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital is using a new tool to treat pulmonary embolism. The FlowTrieve<sup>®</sup> uses a catheter to remove a clot from the lung arteries and the body, immediately restoring blood flow and a patient's ability to breathe.

The FlowTrieve, manufactured by Inari Medical, is the first FDA-approved mechanical thrombectomy device purposely designed to treat pulmonary embolism.

The device offers a minimally invasive, catheter-based method to remove large clots from large vessels, immediately restoring blood flow. Says interventional cardiologist Ibrahim Moussa, DO, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI. "Performing this procedure through a catheter, we avoid open-chest surgery and long intensive care unit stays, as well as drugs that can increase bleeding risk, especially in older patients."

## Focus on Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Throughout October, Virtua Health is promoting the importance of breast cancer screenings by highlighting patients who are sharing their inspiring stories and offering important resources for the community to learn more.

- Roanne Silver and Judy Stokes are outstanding examples of patients who took control of their health during their cancer journey. Now cancer-free, both women thank the Penn Medicine | Virtua Cancer Program clinicians, who were with them every step of the way.

Judy Stokes still fondly remembers her doctors and nurses in Virtua's breast cancer program. Throughout her experience, her medical team was always there for her — putting Judy and her family first. Judy knew that with every turn, her doctors were doing everything they could to eradicate the cancer. Click [here](#) to read her story.

Roanne said she has spoken to many women who have been treated for breast cancer, and she knows and appreciates that her experience doesn't exactly meet the norms.

"I expected to deal with pain after surgery, and had very little pain," Roanne said. "I was scared, but every doctor and nurse I encountered listened to my concerns and called me back day or night to answer my questions. At every point during my treatment, I felt informed about my options and in control of my choices." Click [here](#) to read her story.

- Take a moment to view this [video or read this article](#), where Elizabeth Revesz, MD, breast surgeon with the Penn Medicine Virtua Cancer Program, explains the benefits and addresses common concerns about mammograms.
- As part of our outreach efforts, [a free guide on breast health](#) is now being offered to the public through social media and email outreach.

## Virtua Recognizes National Medical Librarians Month

October is also National Medical Librarians Month. At Virtua, we can access the [Virtua Health Sciences Library](#) on the VINE for our online library. There, you can:

- Find a topic overview, guideline, book chapter, or journal article in Clinical Key, the medical portal
- Search databases, PubMed and Google Scholar, and access the full text from thousands of articles; Lexicomp accesses the Hospital Formulary

Comments and questions are welcome. Add your feedback to the Librarian's InfoBasket at the bottom of the webpage. Helen-Ann Brown Epstein, Virtua's informationist, is available to assist with your research, answer your clinical care questions, and supply quality literature in a timely manner.

## Flu Vaccinations Deadline Approaching — Tuesday, Oct. 20

As of **Oct. 13**, 7,926 colleagues have received flu vaccinations, representing 62.68 percent of the workforce.

The deadline to receive the vaccine is 11:59 p.m. on **Tuesday, Oct. 20**. Effective **Wednesday, Oct. 21**, colleagues who have not been vaccinated or did not present an approved exemption form are considered non-compliant.

All colleagues who receive their vaccinations from a source other than one of the flu clinics on this [schedule](#), or a Virtua flu extender, must scan and [email proof](#) of the vaccination, along with details outlined on the [Colleague Flu Vaccination page on the VINE](#). Questions are welcome. Email [flu@virtua.org](mailto:flu@virtua.org) or call 856-761-3900, option 2.