

## Clinician Update October 6, 2022

### Save the Dates: 2022 Medical Staff Annual Meeting

In keeping with the Bylaws for Virtua's Medical Staffs, we will be holding annual meetings this month. The bylaws call for the full medical staff to meet at least once during the year, with the "annual meeting" to be held in October. The meetings will provide a look back, as well as a preview for what is ahead. Keep watch of your emails for your invitation and information on the agenda of the meeting.

Here are the dates of the two events:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 18**, at 5 p.m. – Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes and Virtua Willingboro Hospitals' Annual Medical Staff Meeting will take place virtually via TEAMS.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 26**, at 5:30 p.m. – Virtua West Jersey and Virtua Memorial Hospitals (Virtua Voorhees, Marlton, and Mount Holly) Medical Staff Meeting will take place at the Barry D. Brown Health Education Center (HEC) in Voorhees.

### More High Fives for Virtua Docs!

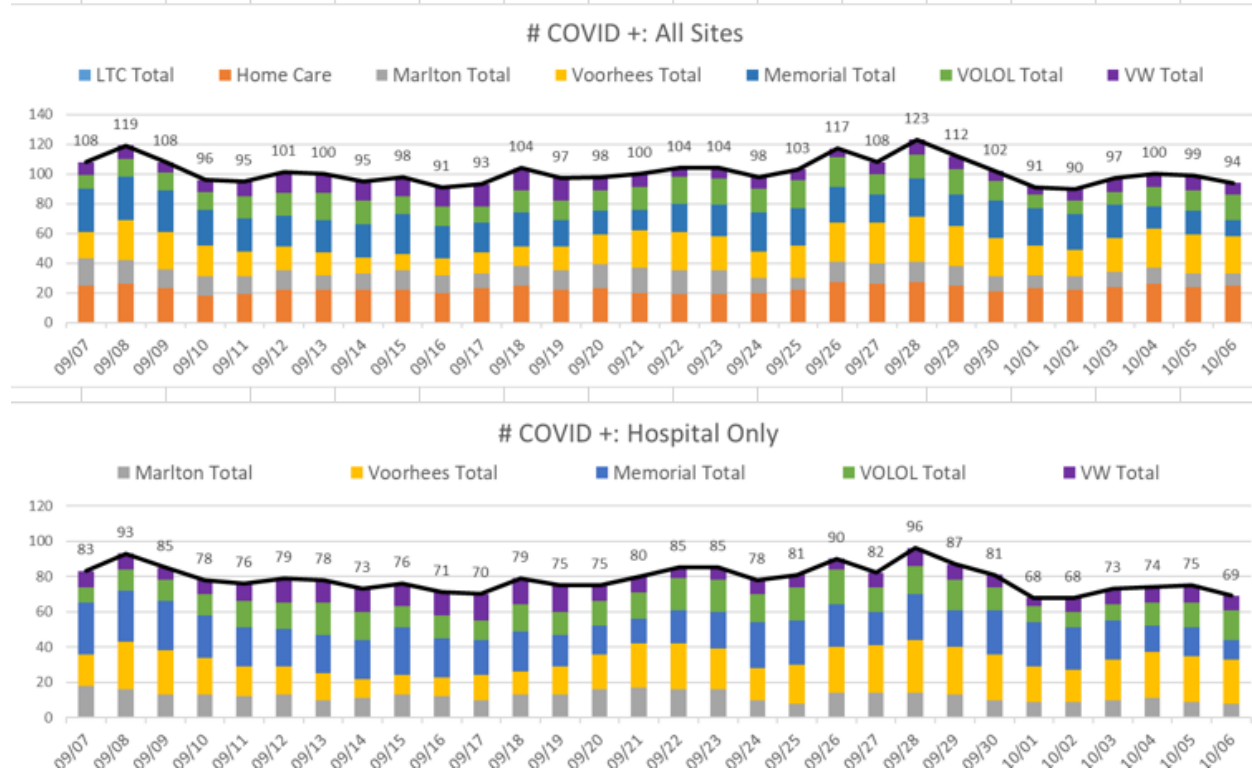
- **Liver Disease During Pregnancy: Virtua Transplant Hepatologist Co-authors Study** — Several liver disorders are unique to pregnancy. While recognizing and managing these diseases during pregnancy is complex, prompt identification is imperative because the disorders can result in significant morbidity and mortality to both the pregnant patient and the fetus. Virtua transplant hepatologist Santiago J. Munoz, MD, has co-authored a [monograph](#) published by *The American Journal of Gastroenterology* that describes normal physiologic changes during pregnancy and the evaluation and management of common liver diseases that can occur during pregnancy and early postpartum period. To read the report, [click here](#).
- **Another Achievement for the Virtua Heart Rhythm Specialists** — Darius Sholevar, MD and the Virtua electrophysiology team recently implanted one of the first-in-region AVEIR VR leadless pacemakers at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. The device, from Abbott, has a long battery life and provides for easier extraction. The [@VirtuaHRSS team has been making ample use of Twitter to share its successes. Learn more here.](#)
- **Congrats to Virtua vascular specialist Lui Tabaza, MD**, who earlier this month was a speaker at the Society of Vascular Medicine's Scientific Sessions in Denver. Dr. Tabaza presented on a "Case-based Approach to the Patient Who Has Leg Pain with Walking." [Learn more about the society here.](#)

### Honoring Our Physician Assistants

Each year from Oct. 6 to 12, we celebrate National Physician Assistant Week, which recognizes the PA profession and its contributions to our nation's health. Physician assistants represent a crucial component of a complete health care team. At Virtua, there are 148 PA positions across the organization serving in a wide range of specialties. They help manage acute and chronic conditions while reinforcing preventive care, and they are key advocates in improving the quality of life for our patients.

"A big thank you to our physicians assistants," said Christopher Pomrink, DO, VP of clinical operations for VMG and VP of medical affairs. "We appreciate your dedication, and we recognize the positive impact that you make in the lives of patients every day."

## COVID-19 Census



### Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is currently 0.98.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
  - Atlantic County 65,627 cases
  - Burlington County: 104,221 cases
  - Camden County: 126,369 cases
  - Gloucester County: 64,659 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,885.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 18,960,451 doses of vaccine have been administered.

### Monkeypox Stats

The total number of monkeypox cases in New Jersey reported as of today: **721**.

### Call for Throwback Photos!

Virtua has built great consumer interest with its “throwback” photo campaign to raise awareness on the latest colonoscopy guidelines. Using photos of its own colleagues, the Marketing team has won awards and recognition in advertising and social media campaign for this humorous approach to screenings.

This year, the team is at it again—looking for fabulous ‘90s throwback photos to continue our campaign for colon cancer screening. And why not tap our own physicians? If you rocked the high hair, parachute pants or the high-top fade in the ‘90s, share your photos for consideration in the next campaign.

Check out submission details below:

- **Preferred Shot:** Solo photo of you in late '80s/'90s fashion, prom wear, high hair, mullets, acid-wash jeans, Hawaiian shirts with sports coats, etc.
- **Preferred Quality:** Scanned or cell phone image of the original photo. Be sure there is no glare on the photo.
- **Consent:** By submitting, you are agreeing to have your photo included in a Virtua Facebook ad to promote colonoscopy starting at age 45. You will not be identified in the ad, but with your permission, we may identify you in the colleague newsletter or [Virtua Colleague Facebook page](#).

We invite you to email your photo submission to Deana McDermott, [DMcdermott@virtua.org](mailto:DMcdermott@virtua.org).

### **Midwifery Birth & Wellness Center Celebrates One-Year Anniversary**

Virtua's Midwifery Birth & Wellness Center will celebrate its one-year anniversary on Friday, Oct. 7 during [National Midwifery Week](#). Virtua built the center, the only freestanding facility of its kind in South Jersey, in response to the growing interest of young families in having midwife-assisted birth in a non-hospital setting.

The midwifery model of care is holistic, wellness-based, and patient- and family-centered. Physiologic labor and birth—often called natural labor and birth—is an option for women at low risk for pregnancy complications.

“Starting or growing a family is such a special time for everyone involved,” said **Karen McEvoy Shields**, administrative and clinical director of the center. “Everyone at the center strives to provide personalized experiences that celebrate the individual and reflect their respective preferences and values so that every birth is a beautiful experience.”

### **Virtua Facilities Development Leader Speaks to AMFP Philly**

The Association of Medical Facility Professionals, Philadelphia Chapter (AMFP Philly) recently hosted a "Cocktails + Conversations" networking event. Nearly 100 industry experts were in attendance to hear from special guest speaker Julie Herb, VP of facilities development, who spoke about Virtua, medical facilities, and the future. Additionally, Julie was profiled in an [article in Blueprint Magazine](#), a publication that profiles leaders who are "imagining, creating, and maintaining better spaces."

### **Trick or Treat...to Help Kids!**

Fall is here! If you're already planning your spookiest costume ever, how about making a trip to a Spirit Halloween pop-up store?

Since 2011, Spirit Halloween pop-up superstores have raised more than \$735,000 to support Child Life at Virtua through the Spirit of Children campaign. All Spirit Halloween stores in South Jersey are participating again this year, raising funds via a special purple coupon, register roundups, and in-store donations.

Spirit Halloween's goal is to “make the hospital a less scary place for kids.” What an important mission—and an impactful one. In 2021 alone, Spirit funds helped Virtua to:

- Purchase sensory items such as weighted blankets, therapeutic putties, and brush sets, so we can provide the best possible support for children with unique sensory needs

- Install a movie system for the MRI at Virtua Voorhees Hospital so children can undergo imaging without fear or the need for sedation
- Provide our child life specialists with uniforms, increasing their visibility so families and colleagues can more easily identify them
- Bring the magic of Disney+, including Star Wars, Marvel, Pixar, Nat Geo, and the Disney Princesses, to children at Virtua.

Visit [virtua.org/gratitude](https://virtua.org/gratitude) to learn more about how we invite our community to make a lasting impact through philanthropy.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October Dates for Free Vascular Screenings

Virtua's Vein & Vascular program is holding two free vascular screening events for the public this October to evaluate individuals' risk for vascular disease. These screenings will involve a short pre-screen evaluation and, based on results, ultrasound or other tests as needed.

If you have patients or family/friends who may benefit, encourage them to sign up. The screenings will take place on **Oct. 15**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Cherry Hill and **Oct. 29**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Moorestown. Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are welcome. Remind them to wear loose and comfortable clothing. For registration, visit [Classes and Events Detail \(virtua.org\)](#) or call 856-246-4276.

### Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

**Oct. 16, 8:30 a.m. (walk begins at 9:45 a.m.)**

Feel free to join us at Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. The Greater Philadelphia & Southern NJ Walk will take place at Cooper River Park in Pennsauken. The Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program is proud to sponsor the American Cancer Society in support of our shared efforts in combatting cancer. At this event, Virtua will host the Survivor Tent and provide Virtua fanny packs and pedometers for participants. This 3.1-mile walk will take place rain or shine, so please dress accordingly. We cannot wait to see you in your pink gear! For more information, visit [MakingStridesWalk.org/GPSNJ](https://MakingStridesWalk.org/GPSNJ).

### Neuroscience Summit

**Oct. 20, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Registered nurses, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and other inter-professionals are invited to the Neuroscience Summit. This program has been awarded 3.75 Nursing Contact Hours. Click to [view the flyer](#).

### Heart Walk Update

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 22, check in at 8:30 a.m., and start walking at 10 a.m.

**Where:** Riverwinds Community Center, 1000 Riverwinds Drive, West Deptford

There are only three weeks left until the American Heart Association (AHA) Heart Walk. Virtua is the lead sponsor for the Heart Walk, and our very own Reg Blaber, MD, is serving as the chair of the event.

When you [sign up](#), be sure to join one of Virtua's teams and receive a free tee! Remember, you can join an existing team or start your own.

Click to [learn more](#) and check out [Dr. Blaber's inspirational video message](#). Be sure to invite one and all!

### **Innovations in Care 2022**

Innovations in Care is a virtual program displaying internet posters (i-posters) created by Virtua nurses. The i-posters feature research, evidence-based, and quality improvement projects conducted across Virtua. Access the program by visiting [virtuahealth.wemeeteasy.com](http://virtuahealth.wemeeteasy.com).

This program has been awarded up to 3.75 Nursing Contact Hours. Virtua Health is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the New Jersey State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Provider Number: P177-3/22-25. Click to [view the flyer](#).

### **Virtual COVID-19 Emotional Support Group**

**Oct. 17, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

COVID-19 can be challenging, both physically and emotionally. If you or a loved one is facing ongoing physical and emotional challenges caused by COVID-19, join Virtua's COVID-19 support group. Peer-led and supported by Virtua social workers, this group offers a safe, compassionate place for you to share, connect, and have meaningful conversations about your journey. Individuals with "long COVID" are welcome. Click to [view the flyer](#).

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

Virtua Health colleagues who are supervisor 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 **Monday, 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.

The Conflict of Interest Disclosure Attestation will be available on the home page of Virtua Works beginning **Monday, Oct. 3**. 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, (856-355-0739).

### **By Nov. 1: Flu Vaccinations**

To date, **4,899** colleagues have received their flu vaccinations. We thank you for your participation in Virtua's mandatory Flu Vaccination Program.

All colleagues should receive their flu shots by 11:59 p.m. on **Tuesday, Nov. 1**. Click on the [Colleague Flu Information button](#) on the VINE to view the following:

- [Colleague flu vaccination schedule](#) at Virtua locations to get their flu shot.
- [Quick reference guide](#) to submit proof of vaccination on Virtua Works if colleagues receive the flu shot at a non-Virtua location (such as a CVS or a VMG primary care practice).
- Reference materials.

Additionally, we encourage you to view [frequently asked questions and answers about flu vaccinations](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and this [flyer](#). Questions are welcome. Email [flu@virtua.org](mailto:flu@virtua.org) or call 856-761-3900, option 2.

### **Global Diversity Awareness Month Celebrations—Week 1**

In October, we observe and celebrate Global Diversity Awareness Month by highlighting, honoring, and learning more about the diverse customs, cultures, and experiences that make up our communities and workforce.

This week, we invite you to learn more about the [Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair \(CROWN\) Act](#), which actively supports the right to wear natural hair without discrimination.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the 2020 research study out of Duke University that presents the negative financial and personal impacts of bias on Black/African American women with natural hair styles—specifically within the hiring process.

### **Post a Selfie of Your Crown**

We invite you to show your support by applying what you've learned from this research, as well as take this opportunity to proudly display your natural crown (hair). Post a selfie to our [Virtua Colleague Facebook page](#) this week and join our call to action to continuously reflect on practices and behaviors that may harbor potential bias—unconscious or otherwise—so we can continue to move forward to an environment of true inclusion and belonging.

### **Help Name Virtua's Soon-to-Launch Colleague Portal**

To help colleagues connect to vital information and resources more easily than ever, Virtua is excited to roll out a new colleague portal with desktop and mobile capabilities. The portal will have a soft launch the **week of Oct. 17**, and will expand in scope and function over the next year. This will allow us to gradually retire the VINE—and better serve your needs.

Benefits include:

- A hub with quick links to popular offerings, including Virtua Works, WE Applaud, the IT Customer Portal, Citrix, Brand Hub, and the upcoming WE Thrive well-being platform
- Easy access to daily huddles, occurrence reporting, nursing materials, and other go-to resources
- Personalized Virtua news and event listings
- Emerging capabilities and features, allowing the portal to expand over time

Additional details will be shared in next week's internal communications, but first, [we need your help](#) in selecting the name for this new portal.

[Please click here to vote](#) for one of three finalists by 11:59 p.m. on **Tuesday, Oct. 11**.

**Please note:** the Virtua VINE will remain available for several months until the new portal is fully introduced and familiar to everyone.

Thank you in advance for [participating in the poll!](#)