

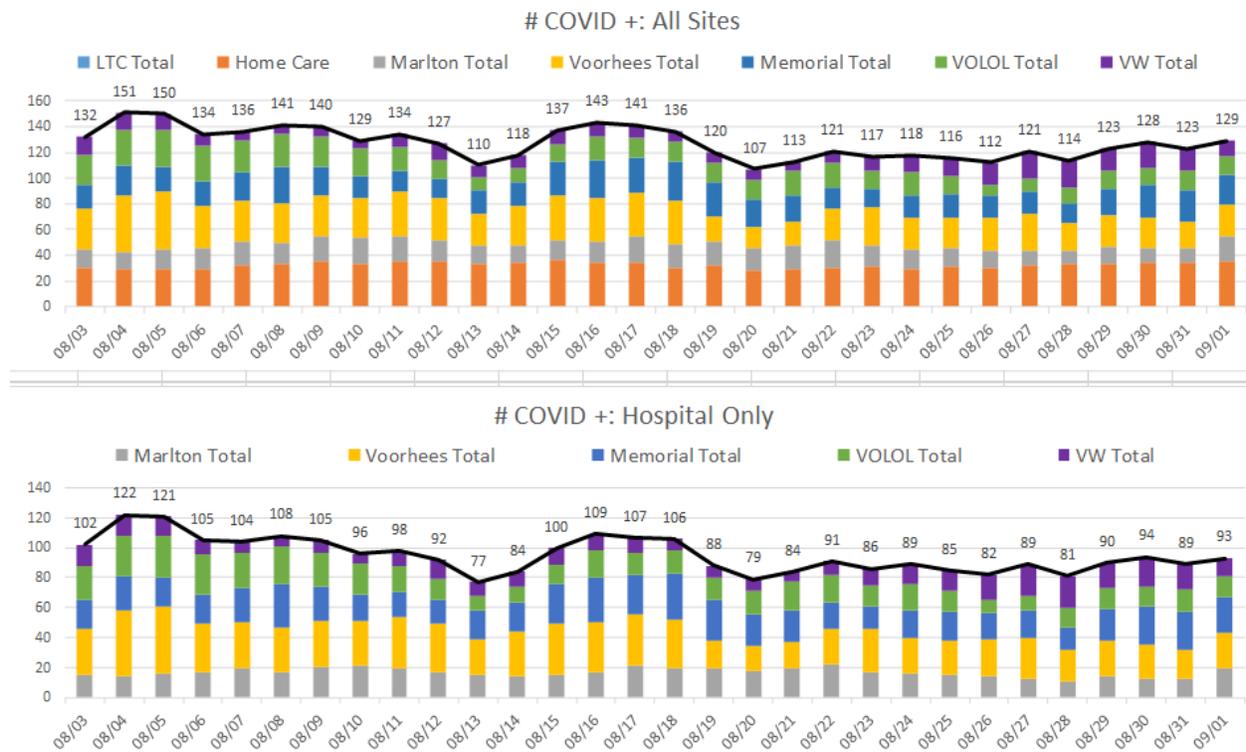
Clinician Update September 1, 2022

Virtua Recognizes Labor Day

On **Monday, Sept. 5**, Virtua celebrates Labor Day to honor and recognize the labor movement in the United States and American workers who continue to contribute to the development and achievements of our country.

We express our gratitude to our colleagues throughout the organization for honoring our mission to helping our patients and community members to be well, get well, and stay well. We encourage you to deliver special Labor Day eCards to your fellow colleagues. Visit peopleareeverything.com/virtua.

COVID-19 Census



Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is currently 0.91.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. yesterday:
 - Atlantic County 64,161 cases
 - Burlington County: 101,141 cases
 - Camden County: 122,827 cases
 - Gloucester County: 62,945 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,848.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 18,511,727 doses of vaccine have been administered.

Monkeypox: Latest NJ Resources

- The total number of cases in New Jersey reported as of today: **540**
- Monkeypox vaccination is available for NJ eligible residents at [selected locations](#) by appointment only.
- The NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) has created a webinar to share the facts about monkeypox (hMPXV), its symptoms, how it spreads, testing, and vaccinations from experts. [Watch the webinar here.](#)
- NJDOH has a [demographic dashboard](#) on people infected with monkeypox in the state.
- For Alerts, Vaccine Information, Education Materials, as well information for healthcare providers and local health departments, click here for [monkeypox resource information from NJDOH.](#)

Meet Virtua's Research Team

Over the years, Virtua's research department has conducted high quality, ethical, and clinically relevant research. They offer education, research expertise, and financial support to investigators.

Research coordinators support research in all disease specialties throughout Virtua. In fact, **the cardiac team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital recently became the first in the nation to implant an investigational defibrillation lead designed to treat people with ventricular tachycardia (VT).**

The research team's mission is to ensure that all Virtua patients have access to research. Their vision is to increase our research portfolio in even more specialized disease areas to give patients access to novel new treatments, which are not currently available. Additionally, they would like to develop links with primary care practices so those patients can also have access. To date, the team oversees 18 active trials with 10 pending.

Meet the Team

Dr. Robert Post, director of clinical research and research committee chair; Jillian Stanley, director of research administration; Donna Palazzo, clinical research specialist; Lisa Ferrante, senior project manager; research coordinators Kristin Broderick, Marisa Brown, Danielle Connors, Katharine Ference, and Donna Hoopes; and Patricia Shaw, research assistant.

The office is located at 301 Lippincott Drive, Suite 130, Marlton. We invite you to reach out to the team for more information about trials and participation.

The research team shares the following quote from research professor Kenneth Getz, *"To the millions of people who give the gift of participation in clinical trials each year, and to the rest of us who admire them for doing so."*

Next Week: Cardiology for Primary Care Sept. 10 (In-Person Event)

Join us for the 12th Annual Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium, a continuing medical education program offering a maximum of 5 AOA Category 1-A/5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. The program will be held **in person** at Rowan College at Burlington County in Mount Laurel (with a livestream option). Masking and other COVID cautions will be in effect. [Register now.](#)

Event details:

12th Annual Cardiology for Primary Care Symposium
Sept. 10, 2022

6:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Rowan College at Burlington County
Votta Hall, 300 College Circle
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

This year's agenda includes presentations on: cardiac monitoring; structural heart and TAVR; chest pain in children and adolescents; cardiac rehab; heart failure medications; geriatric cardiology; peripheral vascular assessments; and the cardiovascular effect and impact from tobacco use.

The registration fee is \$149, and includes instruction, education materials, continental breakfast, refreshment breaks, and lunch. Parking is free. Questions? Email VirtuaClinician@virtua.org.

Two 'Miracle Patients' Return to a Virtua Hospital for Heart-Warming Reunion

Erik Leach, a heart-attack survivor critically ill for 2½ months, came to Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital on Tuesday to thank the health care professionals who helped save his life.

In a touching twist, Erik also got to reunite with Frank Talarico Jr., a former patient who had provided inspiration for Erik's recovery.

Frank, a COVID-19 patient who had spent 49 days at the Camden hospital, was making his own thank-you visit in March when he agreed to meet with Erik, who was on life support at the time.

Erik has said Frank's example helped him see recovery was possible. When Erik and Frank saw each other on Tuesday—their first encounter since Erik's hospitalization—the two men shared an emotional embrace.

"I couldn't contain my tears," said Jackie Patterson, an advanced nurse clinician who cared for both men. "This is just beyond anything we could have expected, just to even see them leave the hospital but then have a complete recovery and be able to reconnect that way is so special."

Erik's critical care physician, Dr. Qiong "John" Yang, had kept him alive using innovative techniques and advanced technology. The Virtua team also helped Erik—like Frank before him—cope emotionally with a long hospitalization, especially when COVID-19 lockdowns prohibited visitors for many weeks.

"These guys really mean a lot to me," said Erik. "I mean, for the rest of my life, I'm still going forward because of them, so I owe them."

View TV coverage of the heart-warming meeting on [NBC 10](#), [CBS3](#), [6ABC](#), and [Fox 29](#).

Dr. Butzbach Discusses the Importance of Focusing on Gratitude

At Virtua, we believe there is great power in gratitude. In this special video for [The Lasting Impact Project](#), Dr. Deborah Butzbach discusses how sharing gratitude with each other can help us through life... even through our most difficult times. We hope you take a few minutes to check out the inspiring video below and share it with your fellow colleagues.

[Watch Video](#). You can find more videos with Virtua clinicians discussing the power of gratitude on the [VINE](#). To learn more about The Lasting Impact Project, visit virtua.org/gratitude.

Epic Recognizes Virtua Health for Revenue Cycle Excellence

At the Epic Users Group Meeting held last month in Verona, Wisconsin, Virtua received high honors as one of the top health systems nationwide in terms of efficient, effective hospital billing. This recognition – based on extensive revenue cycle data spanning several Virtua departments – speaks to the collaborative and goal-driven nature of the Virtua workforce.

“We have come a long way and we’ve done it quickly,” said Traci Mulvenna, director of patient-based services admissions. “It’s a reflection of our culture. When we decide we are going to do something, we commit to doing it right and being the best.”

The teams that track and influence these metrics most directly include medical records, patient accounting, revenue integrity, and patient access (often referred to as registration). That said, Lori Pietropola, director of revenue cycle operations/revenue integrity, points out that Virtua’s success is a reflection of the entire workforce.

“Revenue cycle is a team event. Everyone in the organization is a part of the revenue cycle in some way. Both our clinical and non-clinical teams understand why our processes matter, and so everyone is working toward the same goals,” Lori said.

Virtua is one of about 450 U.S. health systems using Epic, making this recent recognition all the more impressive.

“Revenue cycle is complex, but Epic gives us transparent data that we can access, analyze, and report on. It’s empowering,” said Cindy Biggio, director of patient accounting. “What we do helps ensure Virtua has the funding for its vital programs and services, and so we are proud to dedicate ourselves to this work. Being recognized by Epic is like the cherry on the sundae.”

Upcoming Events

WomenHeart Support Group

Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, and Dec. 8, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

If you know a woman who is concerned about heart disease, let her know about the WomenHeart Support Group at Virtua, a free, fun, and informative group that gets together for monthly gatherings. The meetings include expert-led discussions and peer support from other women with heart disease. The group is facilitated by WomenHeart Champions, heart disease survivors trained at the Mayo Clinic’s WomenHeart Science and Leadership Symposium. Click to [view the flyer](#).

Women of Virtua Presents: Professional Empowerment

Sept. 13, 5 to 7 p.m.

Join us for an evening with Virtua leaders to focus on women’s empowerment. This program will include a small group of breakout sessions with female leaders from across the organization. Learn how to maximize your presentation skills, progress in your career, develop your personal brand, and support other women. Click to [register](#) and [view the flyer](#).

Girl Talk

Sept. 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun, interactive program at Virtua Mount Holly Hospital to help your daughter, ages 9 to 11, experience puberty with ease and confidence. Presented by **Jean Daly, RN**, the program includes an introduction to the stages of puberty and learning healthy habits for self-care, positive attitudes, and confidence. The fee is \$30 for parent and daughter. Click to [view the flyer](#).

Mark your Calendars Now: Colleague Picnics in September

WE heard you! Based on feedback from last year's Colleague Culture Survey, Virtua is pleased to announce another opportunity for colleagues to join together, engage with one another, and share a meal. Throughout the month of September, Virtua will host colleague picnics at select locations. We invite you to view the schedule below, mark your calendars, and share the good news with your fellow team members.

Note: colleagues based in locations not listed below are invited to attend the picnic at the nearest campus.

Mark your calendars:

Wednesday, Sept. 7

[Virtua Voorhees Hospital \(Outside the Cafeteria\)](#)

11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

10 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 8

[Virtua Mount Holly Hospital](#)

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Doctor's Lot)

6 to 9 p.m. (Cafeteria)

Thursday, Sept. 8

[Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital](#)

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 8

[Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Berlin](#)

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

6 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 13

[Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Camden](#)

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

5 to 6 p.m.

11 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 13

[303/301 Lippincott Drive](#)

Local leadership will share additional details

Thursday, Sept. 15

Virtua Willingboro Hospital
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
6 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 15
Virtua Marlton Hospital
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
10 p.m. to 12 a.m.

WE hope to see you there!