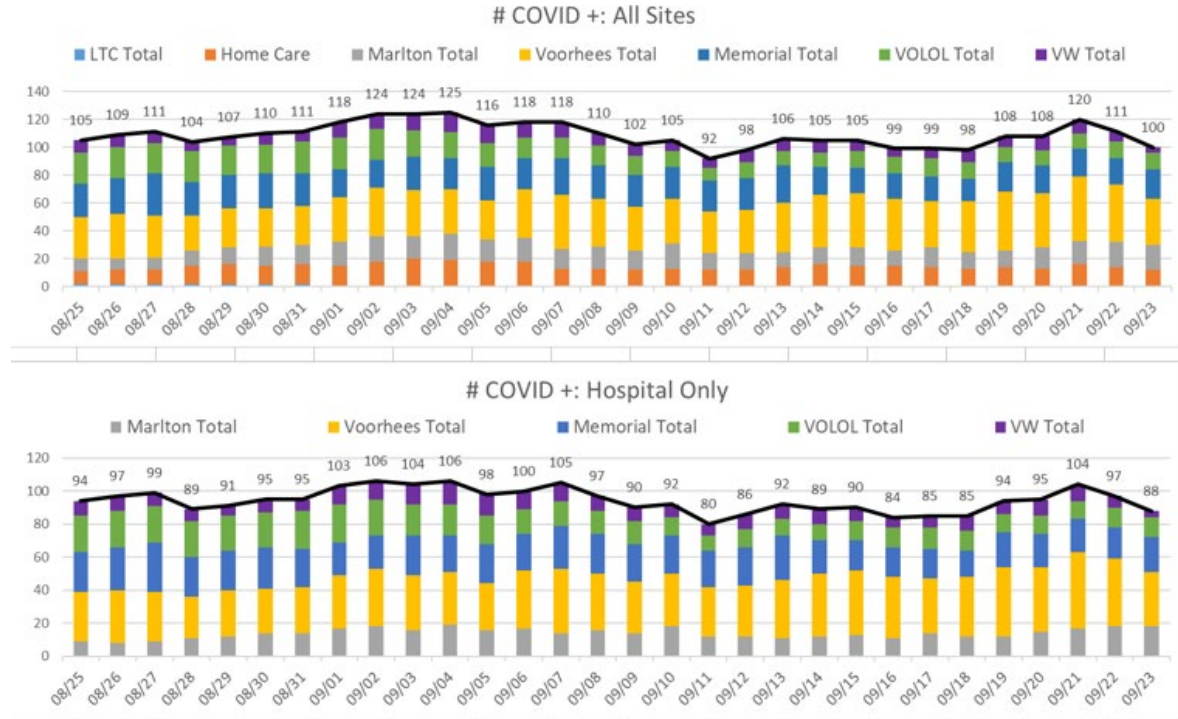


**Clinician Update  
September 23, 2021**

**COVID-19 Census**



**Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts**

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is 1.05.
- The total number of cases as of 3 p.m. are as follows:
  - Burlington County: 43,397 cases
  - Camden County: 55,258 cases
  - Gloucester County: 30,409 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties: 2,750.
- The state’s Vaccination Overview dashboard reports 11,535,778 doses of vaccine have been administered.

**Podcast on Vaccine for Younger Kids**

FDA Acting Commissioner Dr. Janet Woodcock joined former CMS Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt on his [“In the Bubble” podcast addressing vaccination for kids](#), along with booster shots. New [clinical trial data](#) from Pfizer and BioNTech found their vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 passed safety and effectiveness tests. Their data is being reviewed by the FDA. Pfizer is seeking an emergency use authorization to administer the vaccine to this younger age group.

**New Care Compare Tool Shows Nursing Home Vaccination Rates**

Both CMS and the CDC are using data now shared via [Care Compare](#) indicating the vaccination rate among residents and staff in nursing homes. The agencies are also using this data to identify facilities

that may need additional help in responding to the pandemic. This new feature is a valuable tool for consumers to understand the status of nursing homes related to vaccination rates.

### **South Jersey's First Proton Therapy Center Takes a Giant Step Forward**

An exciting new milestone was reached recently with the arrival of the 90-ton cyclotron, the centerpiece of the [Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center](#). The center will provide this leading-edge cancer treatment starting in late 2022.

Coming by ship from Germany, the cyclotron rode a super-sized tractor trailer to Voorhees — where a special crane moved the massive device into place. The 10-foot-wide, drum-shaped machine weighs 90 tons — as much as four city buses — will cool to minus-452 degrees, and will accelerate sub-atomic, cancer-killing particles to about 450 million miles per hour.

But most important, this revolutionary equipment — installed on the Virtua Voorhees campus — will bring hope and healing to people with cancer from across the region.

See the impressive installation and hear updates from both Virtua and Penn Medicine leaders [here](#).

### **Virtua Lab Services Offer Colleagues Benefits, Service**

Earlier this year, Virtua Lab Services reviewed records to determine how well its own colleagues were utilizing their services. Choosing Virtua for lab work offers a number of important benefits, most notably **a waiver of copays for persons covered by Virtua health plans**. In the interim, a dedicated team worked to identify opportunities to educate both colleagues and providers, and since then, they report a 16% improvement in utilization of Virtua Lab Services among this targeted population.

The team is happy to meet with individual practices to review how they may better serve our clinician partners. Virtua's lab services include testing for:

- Metabolic disorders, such as diabetes
- Allergies
- Immunodeficiency disorders
- Viral and bacterial infections
- Tumor pathology

In addition to the co-pay waiver for Virtua colleagues, Virtua's Lab Services offer convenience with:

- 21 locations throughout South Jersey
- Fast turnaround, with most results reported same day
- Extended weekday and Saturday hours
- Results available within MyChart, and alerts sent when ready
- Easy access for clinical colleagues, usually involving a short walk to the closest on-campus location
- Ability to schedule lab appointments for convenience, but walk-ins welcome
- Pediatric phlebotomists available at select locations

Learn more about Virtua's lab services and locations at [www.virtua.org/services/lab-services](http://www.virtua.org/services/lab-services), or appointments may be scheduled by calling 1-844-896-LABS (1-844-896-5227).

## Important Flu Vaccination Reminder

Deadlines for compliance with Virtua's mandatory Flu Vaccination Program:

- **Friday, Oct. 8.**: Deadline to present a medical or religious exemption form for approval (instructions to apply can be found on the VINE under the [Colleague Flu Button](#))
- **Tuesday, Nov. 2.**, 11:59 p.m.: Deadline to receive the vaccine
- **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

Questions are welcome. Email [flu@virtua.org](mailto:flu@virtua.org) or call 856-761-3900, option 2.

## Tune into the Latest Episode of the *Here for Good* Podcast with Tennis Star Zina Garrison

While it's been 25 years since she last hit the court professionally, she's still one of the most prominent names in tennis. Watch as our guest, tennis star Zina Garrison, returns questions from host, Virtua president and CEO Dennis W. Pullin, on the latest episode of *Here for Good*.

Zina and Dennis talk about her impressive tennis career and how she draws from her own experience to inspire children and young athletes through the Zina Garrison Academy. On the tails of the recent summer 2020 Olympic Games and U.S. Open, the two also embark on an important discussion around mental health and its impact on professional athletes.

Click to [listen to the podcast](#).

## Virtua Recognizes Telehealth Awareness Week

**Sept. 19 to 25** is the inaugural Telehealth Awareness Week, presented by the American Telemedicine Association. The aim is to highlight the pivotal role telehealth plays in the delivery of health care services, particularly in response to COVID-19.

"Telehealth is a critical tool for patients to stay connected with their health care providers. We're at a point where an entire generation of consumers expects to have some degree of telehealth access. While there is much work to do, Virtua Health is well positioned with our growing telehealth portfolio, which includes our Urgent Care Telehealth, Scheduled Telehealth, Remote Patient Monitoring, and Care After COVID services. We couldn't be prouder of how our clinicians and staff have embraced telehealth to be there for our community," said Dr. Tarun Kapoor, senior vice president and chief digital transformation officer.

## Walk the Fall Heart Walk

Virtua is a sponsor of the American Heart Association's (AHA) Fall Heart Walk, which takes place on **Saturday, Oct. 23** at RiverWinds in West Deptford.

We invite you and your loved ones to join the Fall Heart Walk, which has always been about coming together, getting hearts pumping, honoring survivors, and having fun along the way. As Virtua teams are forming, feel free to join one or create one of your own.

"The AHA reports that funds raised from the Heart Walk have led to scientific breakthroughs that keep people living longer," said Dodi Iannaco, Virtua nurse practitioner for Virtua Urgent Care. "There is still

time to be a part of all the fun. The focus is on getting out and walking to promote our collective heart health!”

Click [to register](#), and remember to join company Virtua Health. No financial commitment is necessary to participate, and Virtua shirts will be provided.

### **Musicians on Call Are Always on Call**

This week, Musicians on Call announced it was approaching an incredible milestone: 1 million performances conducted at hospitals across the nation. This organization, founded to bring the healing power of music, has (like everyone) had to adapt in the wake of COVID-19, but in their new, online format, volunteer musicians and guides are able to provide performances to an even wider network of facilities. While previously they were only able to perform at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, now, we have access to a catalog of over 36 sessions by talented local artists.

This portal offers Musicians on Call performances live each week at 3 p.m., with the recorded events available alongside the current program.

To watch the programs, type in our login and unique passcode. Share the link and password with patients and fellow colleagues to enjoy these heartfelt musical events. We know that music heals, and offering this service has the power to lift spirits.

Here’s how it works:

- [Click here to log in.](#)
- Type in our access code: **lourdes** (same as our original membership, now Virtua wide).
- Choose from the drop-down, either **Family & Staff** or **Patient** as your selected role to be viewing the program. (This helps with tracking.)
- Scroll down to enjoy the live performance each Wednesday at 3 p.m. Or, select from the archived performances posted to “Watch More Musicians on Call.” The icon on the upper right of that frame opens to all previous videos.

If you’ve had any Musicians on Call (MOC) moments to share, feel free to follow them on Twitter @musiciansoncall and share with the hashtag #MOCMillion.