

Clinician Update September 30, 2021

Save the Dates: Annual Medical Staff Meetings Coming Up in October

In keeping with the Bylaws for Virtua's Medical Staffs, we will be holding annual meetings this October. The bylaws call for the full medical staff to meet at least once during the medical staff year, with the "annual meeting" being held in October. Once again, the meetings will be held virtually.

Be on the lookout for Outlook invites and notices with links, but mark your calendars:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 19** at 4 p.m. – Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes and Virtua Willingboro Hospitals' Annual Medical Staff Meeting
- **Wednesday, Oct. 20** at 6 p.m. – Virtua West Jersey and Virtua Memorial Hospitals (Virtua Voorhees, Marlton, and Mount Holly) Medical Staff Meeting

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots at Virtua Health

Throughout the week, Virtua colleagues have visited the Barry D. Brown Health Education Center (HEC) to receive booster doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Health care workers and others with "increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional settings" became eligible for the shot following a CDC decision late last week.

Today, Virtua is sending scheduling notices via MyChart to colleagues who first received the Pfizer vaccine in January and early February 2021—expanding upon the initial distribution list. Virtua has also added additional appointment dates and times to the scheduling platform. If you are eligible and interested in receiving a booster, look for an email or text message from MyChart. The email will likely come from "donotreply@virtua.org."

At this moment, **MyChart is the only platform for scheduling a booster appointment at the HEC.** These notices come in the form of an email, text, or app notification, based on preferred communications settings of the user. Walk-up vaccinations are **not** presently available.

Virtua will issue notifications based on the order people received their initial vaccine series at the HEC, and will send out additional notifications in waves until all eligible colleagues are included. Virtua is currently scheduling booster appointments through mid-October. We will continue to add dates and times to the schedule based on demand.

In preparation for your booster appointment:

- **Use the eCheck-in feature in MyChart to expedite the in-person registration process.** The day before your appointment—up to 48 hours in advance—log into the MyChart app. Click on the calendar icon or select "appointments" in the main menu. Click on your vaccine appointment. Follow the prompts to complete the eCheck-In.
- **Bring your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card to your appointment, as well as your Virtua badge and/or other forms of identification.** It is important that you bring your vaccine record card so that the staff can update it with information about your third dose.
- **Consult [the map](#) before your vaccine appointment to ensure you park your vehicle in the correct area at the HEC.** The HEC is a multi-purpose facility and we want to be a good neighbor to the other people who utilize the campus.

Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- [ROI-NJ.com reported](#) this week that New Jersey has now surpassed 1 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state.
- 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.

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 145 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."

Interactive Voice Response Goes Live Today

Virtua is pleased to announce that our Access Center and Information Technology department have enhanced our colleagues' calling experience at our hospitals.

The implementation of the Parlane Interactive Voice Response Technology (IVR) on 888-VIRTUA-3 and the hospital main lines goes live **today, Sept. 30**.

Here is an example of how IVR works. With IVR, a nurse who calls the hospital main line in order to be transferred to an extension will no longer need to speak with an operator. The nurse can simply state the name of the department, and the IVR will immediately transfer them to the desired destination.

In partnership with IT, this technology serves to enhance the colleague and patient experience by decreasing hold times and reducing transfer volume. IVR testing has been successful so far, and we will continue to monitor our colleagues' experience with IVR to ensure a smooth transition.

Wi-Fi Enabled Calling on Mobile Devices

In certain Virtua properties, especially in buildings with sophisticated medical equipment, such as hospitals and health and wellness centers, there are some areas where cellular coverage is limited due to newer construction that prevents signals within the building. This can make it difficult to reach some colleagues and care providers and cause delays in communication.

To alleviate this issue, colleagues can connect to a Virtua guest Wi-Fi network and turn on "Wi-Fi Enabled Calling" on their mobile device. When connecting your device to Vguest, which is available at all

Virtua locations, you have the option of accessing the network for the day (12 hours) or for 30 days (this option is only for Virtua colleagues). Click [here](#) to view instructions on how to connect to “Vguest.”

Additionally, if you are uncertain of how to enable Wi-Fi calling on your device, tip sheets for both iPhone and Android* devices are available [here](#). This should help alleviate issues where a cellular service provider’s coverage is limited and allow colleagues to be in contact whenever necessary.

If you continue to encounter issues with coverage on your personal device, please reach out to your cell phone provider for additional support.

*Please note, that due to the variety of Android devices, the tip sheet only demonstrates the most common guide to turning on “Wi-Fi Enables Calling.” Individual devices may be different. If this process does not work for you, contact your carrier for more specific instructions.

Get Ready for Some Great “Girl Talk!”

We hope you enjoyed Virtua’s Real Talk! Women’s Health Chats in the past, and we invite you to join us for our upcoming session:

Meet the Midwives

Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.

Midwifery means “with woman.” At Virtua, it means with you. Join our certified nurse midwives, **Karen McEvoy Shields, CNM, Emily De Penning, CNM, Kamil El, CNM, and Robin Hewlett, CNM**, as they chat about midwifery care in every stage of a woman’s life. Plus, learn more about Virtua’s new Midwifery Birth & Wellness Center, located on our Voorhees campus.

This Real Talk! Women’s Health Chat is free. Registration is required to receive the event link to the live online webinar.

[Register today](#) to join the conversation!

Having a Ruff Day?

Visit the pups from Virtua’s Visiting Paws Program

Virtua Voorhees Hospital

Thursday, Oct. 7, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside, Cafeteria Area

Virtua Marlton Hospital

Thursday, Oct. 14, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside, Main Entrance

Virtua Mount Holly Hospital

Friday, Oct. 15, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside, Main Entrance

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

Thursday, Oct. 21, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside, Main Entrance

Virtua Willingboro Hospital

Thursday, Oct. 28, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Outside, Main Entrance

Click to view a [flyer about the program](#).