

## Clinician Update

### September 8, 2022

#### Monkeypox Q&A with Dr. Martin Topiel and Jennifer Sneddon

*We asked two of Virtua's infectious disease experts to share the latest news regarding monkeypox. Here's what they had to say.*

#### **It appears U.S. cases of monkeypox are beginning to decline. Do you think that trend will continue?**

We sincerely hope that increased awareness and the increased availability of the vaccine will result in a steady decline of cases. That said, we need to continue to monitor the situation closely.

#### **Has Virtua treated many patients with confirmed monkeypox?**

Virtua has treated a handful of patients for monkeypox. The numbers have, fortunately, not been large. But we remain prepared to serve our community and provide any necessary care.

#### **How is the current supply of vaccines? Who is eligible for preventive vaccination?**

The vaccine supply is increasing, although it is still not sufficient to meet the demand. The CDC recommends vaccination for those who have had close contact with a person with a confirmed monkeypox diagnosis, and others who are considered to be at high-risk. The CDC is not recommending vaccination for the general public at this time. VMG now has the vaccine available for those who qualify.

#### **Generally, what should Virtua colleagues know about monkeypox?**

There is a lot of misinformation online. It's important to note that anyone can get monkeypox, even if certain individuals/groups are at higher risk than others. Fortunately, this variant is seldom fatal. Also, monkeypox is far less transmissible than other viruses and is unlikely to be spread casually or in the workplace.

#### **What should colleagues know about monkeypox as it pertains to their roles?**

Colleagues should familiarize themselves with the safety measures Virtua has enacted in response to this outbreak. Virtua Infection Prevention has developed a monkeypox policy that addresses isolation precautions, PPE, visitation, environmental infection control, and transport for patients. This includes utilizing telehealth consultations for anyone with concerning symptoms.

**If a colleague contracts monkeypox, they should refer to the Infectious Disease of an Employee policy for guidance on the process to be cleared to return to work. Contact Employee Health at 609-444-2828 with any questions about return to work after a monkey pox infection.**

#### **Monkeypox: Latest NJ Resources**

- The total number of cases in New Jersey reported as of today: **598**.
- *Monkeypox vaccination is available for NJ eligible residents at [selected locations](#) by appointment only.*
- For more information, NJDOH has a [demographic dashboard](#) on people infected with monkeypox in the state. Click here for [monkeypox resource information from NJDOH](#).

#### **Important Flu Vaccination Reminder**

Virtua released the [colleague flu vaccination schedule](#) for September. We encourage colleagues to click on the [Colleague Flu Information button](#) on the VINE to view the schedule and get their flu shot.

Flu shots are mandatory for all Virtua colleagues. All colleagues should receive their flu shots by **11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1**. The last day to submit a medical or religious exemption for approval is **Saturday, Oct. 1**.

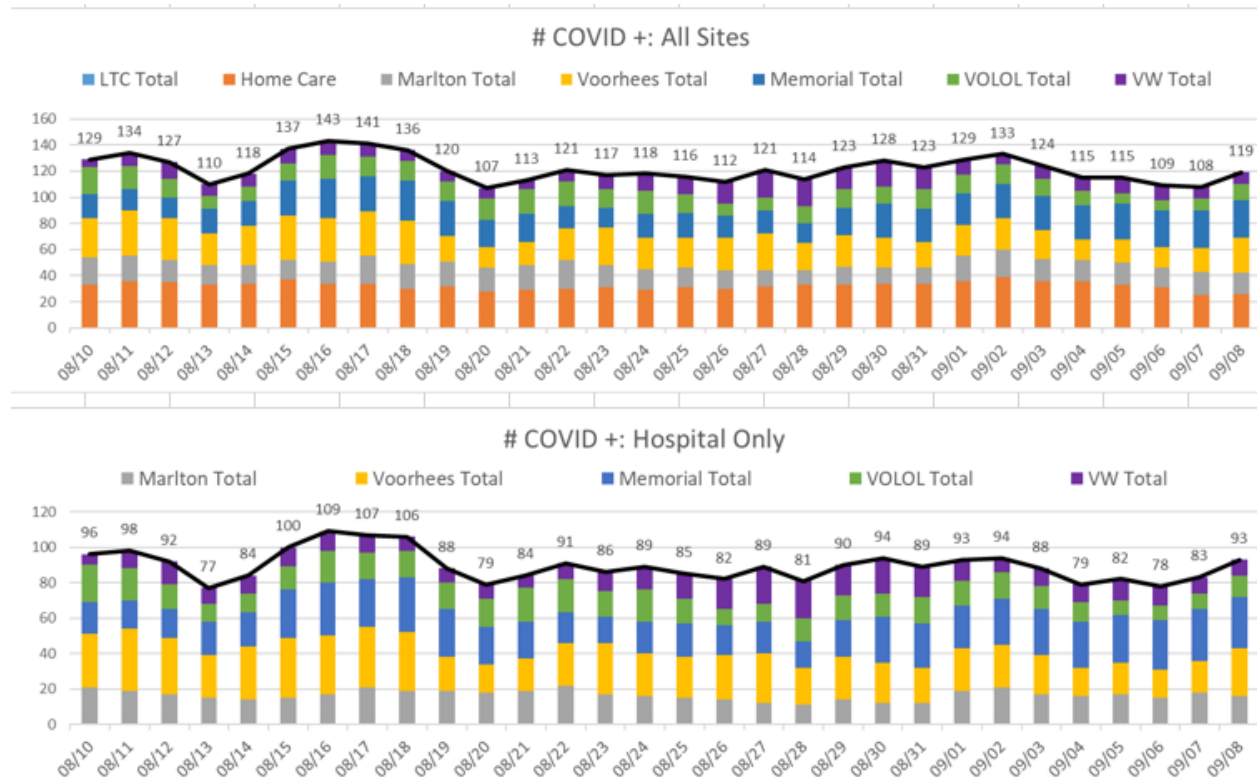
Colleagues who receive the flu vaccine at a location other than a Virtua flu clinic (such as a CVS or a VMG primary care practice) and need to provide proof of vaccination can upload this information into Virtua Works as a self-service function. Click to view the [quick reference guide](#) (QRG).

Click to view [frequently asked questions and answers about flu vaccinations](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and share this [flyer](#) with your team members.

**Note:** The flu vaccination schedule, the QRG to submit proof of vaccination, and instructions to apply for medical and religious exemptions can be found on the VINE via the [Colleague Flu Information button](#).

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

### COVID-19 Census



### Latest COVID-19 Fast Facts

- The rate of transmission in New Jersey is currently 0.89.
- The total number of cases reported as of 3 p.m. today:
  - Atlantic County 64,437 cases
  - Burlington County: 101,739 cases
  - Camden County: 123,560 cases

- Gloucester County: 63,225 cases
- COVID-associated mortality for Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic counties: 4,860.
- The state's Vaccination Overview dashboard reported 18,530,531 doses of vaccine have been administered.

### **Last Call: Cardiology for Primary Care Sept. 10 (In-Person Event)**

Join us this Saturday 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:**

12<sup>th</sup> 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 (*note updated GPS address*)  
 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](mailto:VirtuaClinician@virtua.org).

### **Virtua Breast Care Prepares for Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

With fall just around the corner, Virtua Breast Care – Voorhees plans to recognize the season and Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a Pink Pumpkin Decorating Contest.

The team invites all VMG practices to send a photo of their pumpkins (one pink or blue pumpkin per practice) and show their support for our patients, survivors, and the community.

The last day to submit your photo to Reem Huber, [Rhuber@virtua.org](mailto:Rhuber@virtua.org), is **Friday, Oct. 21**. Virtua's very own breast surgeons will choose the winner, who will receive a prize.

*See the good? Share the good! Email [hellogood@virtua.org](mailto:hellogood@virtua.org) with stories, letters, and cards about fellow colleagues who are spreading the good in our campuses and the community. They may be featured in an upcoming edition of By Design.*

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **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](#).

### **Shoulder, hips and knees, oh my!**

**Thursday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.**

Join Nicole Michalik from 92.5 XTU as she chats with three Virtua experts—shoulder and elbow surgeon Dr. Andrea Bowers; joint replacement surgeon Dr. Scott Schoifet; and sports medicine physician Dr. Thomas Plut—about tips and tricks on managing existing joint pain and preventing injuries in the future.

Registration is required to receive the event link to the live online webinar. Share with friends, patients and staff—and ask them to bring questions! [Register for free](#).

### **Free Car Seat Check Event**

**Sept. 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

In celebration of Child Passenger Safety Week, Virtua is offering a free event to help caregivers on how to properly install a car seat. Click to [view the flyer](#).

### **Smoking Cessation Education and Support**

**Oct. 17 and 24, 12 to 1:30 p.m.**

Virtua Health's free two-session educational support group can help your patients stop smoking once and for all. Run by a trained tobacco treatment specialist, these free sessions will help them:

- Learn about the addiction process
- Develop a personal plan to quit smoking
- Get the tools and support you need to stop smoking, including nicotine replacement patches and lozenges, and acupuncture
- Learn how to manage stress and avoid other behavioral triggers

A Microsoft Teams meeting ID will be provided the week prior via email.

Click to [view the flyer](#).

### **THRIVE: Moving Forward to a Healthier You**

**Oct. 8, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Invite patients and colleagues to join this FREE online event hosted by Virtua clinical oncology nurse navigators to engage in expert-led discussions on financial toxicity and nutrition. Participants will learn ways to regain and restore mobility; and learn self-care strategies to improve stress management. Click to [view the flyer](#).