



### **COVID-19 Fit to Work Self-Attestation Screening Protocol**

As the COVID-19 situation continues to develop, Virtua's number one priority is to protect our staff, patients and visitors, and all that enter our facilities. In order to do so, we are instituting a "Fit to Work" self-attestation screening protocol systemwide.

Colleagues, physicians, and vendors are now expected to self-attest that they are "Fit to Work" when reporting to work at a Virtua facility.

The Fit to Work definition is:

- Temperature is less than 100.0
- No accompanying flu-related respiratory symptoms (cough)
- No muscle aches or chills

For physicians, reminder messages will appear when logging into EPIC and WellSoft as well as at the top of the Coronavirus Update section of [Digital 411](#).

### **Surge Preparation**

As part of its preparation for possible surge in patients, Virtua recently surveyed providers to determine interest in supporting the COVID-19 response. In addition, the next VPP/LHSHN webinar will be devoted to the operations of VPP and LHSHN during the surge and will be focused on the plan to support our most at-risk population across Clinically Integrated Network. It is vital for as many primary care clinicians, QI Leaders (VPP), and NPCs (LHSHN) to attend as possible. We need their awareness and support as we make an important transition to support COVID-19 surge preparedness. The webinar will be held at 6 p.m.

### **Important Update Regarding our Mask Policy**

We are continually re-evaluating circumstances regarding COVID-19 and our practices to keep our colleagues and patients safe. As you know, we provide isolation masks each day to all colleagues and N95 masks to colleagues in high-risk areas such as the Emergency Department and Critical Care Units. (See full policy update in Coronavirus Update Issue 14). Additionally, Virtua provides N95 masks to colleagues directly treating patients with confirmed COVID-19 and those treating patients under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 across all other areas of the organization.

Our decisions regarding PPE have been consistent with – and, at times, have superseded – guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our focus is always on keeping our colleagues protected. Over the last week, leadership has spent significant thought and time evaluating the pros and cons of staff supplying and wearing their own N95 mask when taking care of non-COVID-19 patients, as well as the use of homemade masks. We have come to the following decisions:

Virtua currently has adequate isolation and N95 masks to provide our colleagues with the appropriate level of protection during this unprecedented time. We will continue to follow our PPE policies as they have been recommended and vetted by Infection Control experts.

Certainly, we can appreciate the desires of colleagues to want to take extra precautions during this time. In the event a colleague wants to provide and wear additional protection when caring for non-COVID-19 patient, the colleague can wear their own N95 mask as long as they cover it with a Virtua-issued

isolation mask. In this circumstance, the colleagues can wear the N95 mask for a limit of one shift. In order to preserve a safe environment, the colleague will have to discard the N95 at the end of the shift and bring in a new one for their next shift.

We also appreciate the community's support and outreach regarding homemade cloth masks. At this time, Virtua has adequate masks on hand to supply our colleagues; as a result, we are not allowing colleagues to wear homemade cloth masks while at work since we cannot verify their efficacy. We would encourage colleagues who appreciate the efforts and symbolism of the homemade masks to use them when outside of work.

### **CMS Telehealth Video**

As previously reported, CMS has expanded Medicare coverage and payment of virtual services on a temporary and emergency basis. To support this effort, CMS has released this informational CMS [video](#) with answers to common questions about the Medicare telehealth services benefit.