

COVID-19 Provider Update
Tuesday, April 21, 2020

COVID-19 Provider Survey – Share Your Opinion

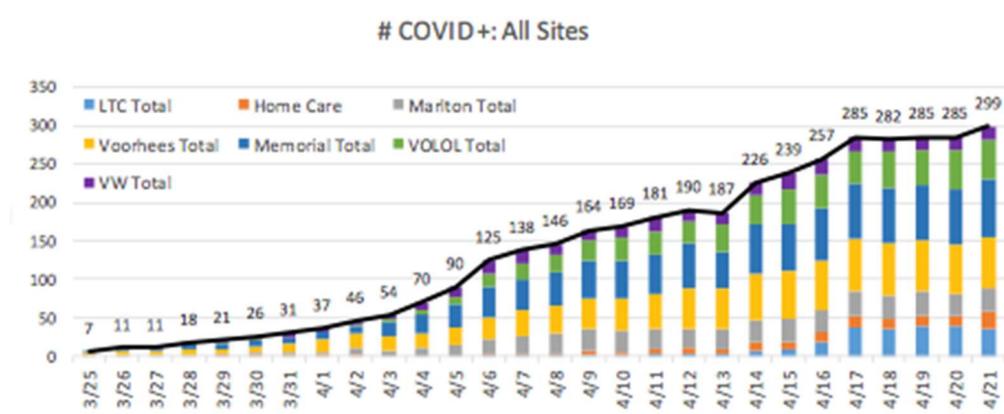
Our team is working to ensure our providers feel informed and supported during this unprecedented time. Please take this quick [3-minute survey](#) to allow us to learn more about how we can help you in your practice.

By the Numbers

The following charts reflect the latest figures for statewide as of 1 p.m. on April 20. Virtua-site cases of COVID-19 and related response efforts reported as of 9 a.m. April 21.

NEW JERSEY		VIRTUA HEALTH	
New Cases	3,581	Total Cases*	299 (+14)
Total Cases	92,387	Rule Outs/Patients Under Investigation (PUIs)	68 (-30)
New Deaths	376	COVID-19 % of Census	37%
Total Lives Lost	4,753		
Hospital Discharges**	630		

*Virtua cases include hospitals, home care and long-term care.
 **Hospital COVID/PUI discharges in NJ replaced recovered as a new metric to share on our path to recovery. Number is based on 24 hours prior to 10PM on 4/21.
 Source: Department of Health New Jersey COVID-19 Dashboard.



Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 182 deaths, as of 1 p.m. on April 21. The total number of cases are as follows:

- Burlington County 1,765
- Camden County 2,379
- Gloucester County 808

Supply and PPE Conservation

These truly are unprecedented times and we appreciate your continued support and collaboration as we navigate this pandemic together through responsible methods to conserve our supplies, especially PPE.

- Masks - Recently, we shared information about the effective sterilization processes Virtua is now following to safely extend the life of each N95 mask for additional uses by the same wearer. This temporary conservation and reuse process helps us conserve our limited supplies of these masks for future peak demand. Special thanks to Director of Sterile Processing Michael Wilkie, for taking time to share this process. Mike explains why this effort is critical and thanks all his fellow colleagues for their support and collaboration to ensure that this process is successful. Click [here](#) to watch.
- Face Shields - In following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, we are now successfully able to conserve our face shields. By developing a responsible collection process, we can reprocess and fully disinfect the shields. We've developed a step-by-step-process for doffing. Please click [here](#).
- Disposable Stethoscopes - We are running critically low on disposable stethoscopes and therefore we need to conserve them throughout this pandemic. We're asking all clinicians to please keep disposable stethoscopes at bedside and clean them after use with a PDI wipe. Upon patient discharge, EVS will include stethoscopes in the terminal clean process.

Provider Webinar Series – Important Update

Over the last several weeks, Virtua providers have participated in webinars to share important information related to COVID-19. Most of the meetings have been directed to members of the Clinically Integrated Networks while others addressed the medical staff at large.

This week's meeting, slated for Thursday, April 23 at 6 p.m., **is directed toward post-acute physicians as well as long-term care providers.** Individuals *not directly involved in post-acute care or long-term care are welcome to, but do not need to attend this session.* The VPP/LHSHN Coronavirus webinar series will resume its normal schedule next Tuesday, April 28. Invites will be sent out accordingly with Skype call-in details.

CIN Management of High-Risk Patients

Virtua's two clinically integrated networks are engaging in a strategy to "take the wave out of the wave" when it comes to COVID-19. Identifying the 4,300 most at-risk patients among the 100,000 lives covered by Virtua Physician Partners and LHS Health Network, the combined teams are conducting highly focused outreach to assist this population, representing 33.9% of the high-risk individuals in South Jersey. These include:

- Virtua employees over age 65, regardless of the presence of medical conditions
- Virtua employees age 50 to 64 with multiple comorbidities
- CIN Medicare/Commercial contracts involving patients over age 65 with multiple comorbidities

A team of social workers and community coordinators are calling patients to identify and respond to needs, specifically involving:

- Food access
- Medication and fall risk
- Chronic disease management
- Mental health
- Advanced care planning

- Access to technology and resources to improve resources to telemedicine and to reduce social isolation

The team has made significant progress in outreach efforts, completing the assessment of more than one-quarter of the patients in the first week. Through the effort, patients were scheduled for follow-up with PCP, Clinical Pharmacy and supportive care appointments. In addition, patients in need of food access were connected with appropriate resources. For more information on this initiative, contact Erica Schetter at eschetter2@virtua.org.

Happy 140th Anniversary!

While our days are filled with focus around the coronavirus pandemic, there is something fitting about this day. On April 21, 1880, the state of New Jersey approved the incorporation of what would become the very first community hospital in the southern portion of the state.

The roots of Virtua go back to a small house that is still standing. It is there where Dr. Francis Ashhurst assembled a team of likeminded individuals to help the sick and wounded. Without fanfare, this act of selfless service became The Burlington County Hospital at Mount Holly, and it would grow quickly.



Five years later, similarly minded women of the Camden community helped bring another hospital to life, the Camden Homeopathic Hospital and Dispensary Association. And it would grow to later become the West Jersey Homeopathic Hospital. In the 1950s, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital began its commitment to the poor and underserved with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.

Virtua's history through 140 years includes three different health systems now as one representing the largest health system in Southern New Jersey. While its locations and names have changed over the decades, its commitment to provide selfless care has never wavered. That commitment is as profound today as 14,000+ colleagues rise selflessly to meet the need of this community we call home!

So, Happy Anniversary, Virtua Health. Thank you all for showing up every day to be here for our neighbors — to be *Here for Good*.

Cybersecurity Guide for Providers Working from Home

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it a new wave of cyber criminals who are taking advantage of telecommuters, exploiting network vulnerabilities. While any provider with a Virtua-issued device has the full support of the [Information Technology Department](#) (856-355-1234) to manage and monitor cybersecurity, providers who use personal devices such as PC's, phones and tablets have a new resource guide to protect their security.

To support providers who are now navigating the remote work environment, the AMA and AHA have teamed up to create [guidance](#) that outlines ways to strengthen home-based computer networks. The document offers checklists, sources, tips and advice to avoid cyberattacks that could disrupt patient care and threaten patient privacy.

More Hope in Action Stories

There is nothing more compelling than the voices of our frontline to help us recognize our purpose in action. We are proud to present the third in a series of meaningful conversations President and CEO, Dennis Pullin has had over the past couple of weeks with colleagues from across the organization. In this [episode](#), Dennis speaks with Ahalia Simmons, Access Center Manager; Dr. Emilio Mezza, Medical Director, Intensive Care Unit and Chief of Critical Care, Virtua Memorial Hospital; and Chris Calli, Equipment Technician, Virtua Voorhees Hospital.

Kindness Has a Ripple Effect

Special thanks to the Auxiliary to Virtua West Jersey Health for generously donating \$88,000 to help Virtua Health supply fresh, healthy food to patients and families in need. Now more than ever, access to fresh, healthy food options is even more challenging. Additionally, it is important to stay home unless you must leave in order to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Together, through philanthropy, we can all make a difference. To take part, visit [GiveToVirtua.org](https://www.givetovirtua.org).

Tune-In to NBC-10 or Set Your DVR to “Jersey 4 Jersey”- You Might Even See Familiar Faces

On Wednesday, April 22 at 7 p.m., local celebrities including Bruce Springsteen, Jon Bon Jovi, and Whoopi Goldberg will participate in a televised benefit concert called "Jersey 4 Jersey," airing locally on NBC-10. Virtua's marketing team submitted a number of photos and video clips to the concert's producers, so you may see some of your colleagues (or even yourself) during the broadcast. For a sneak peek of some of what Virtua shared, please enjoy these [short videos](#).

Celebrating the Unsung COVID-19 Heroes

There is no better time to celebrate the out-of-sight heroes working to support the health of our patients and communities across South Jersey than right now. During this week's 44th annual Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, we honor and give thanks to the laboratory team who plays such a vital role. These trained professionals are responsible for conducting tests that provide crucial information for detecting, diagnosing, treating, and monitoring disease.

This year, especially, we acknowledge the commitment of laboratory professionals to serve patients during this confusing time, learning in real time about a pandemic the likes of which no one of this generation has ever seen. We greatly admire their adaptability and their capacity to navigate confusing times and emerge as pioneers.

“Our Lab at Virtua Voorhees Hospital was one of the first hospital labs in New Jersey to go live with the COVID-19 testing. We currently have testing available on three instruments in the Lab,” shares Ahmed Salahuddin, assistant vice president, Lab Services.

Senior Vice President of Integrated Operations Lisa Ferraro confirms that Virtua Lab team's commitment to our safety and well-being has not gone unnoticed. “We are deeply grateful for your dedication.”

Check out Ahmed giving a shout out to Virtua's amazing medical laboratory professionals of over 450 individuals. <https://bcove.video/2Kpiyas>