

# COVID-19 Clinician Update

## Thursday, June 4

### White Coats for Black Lives

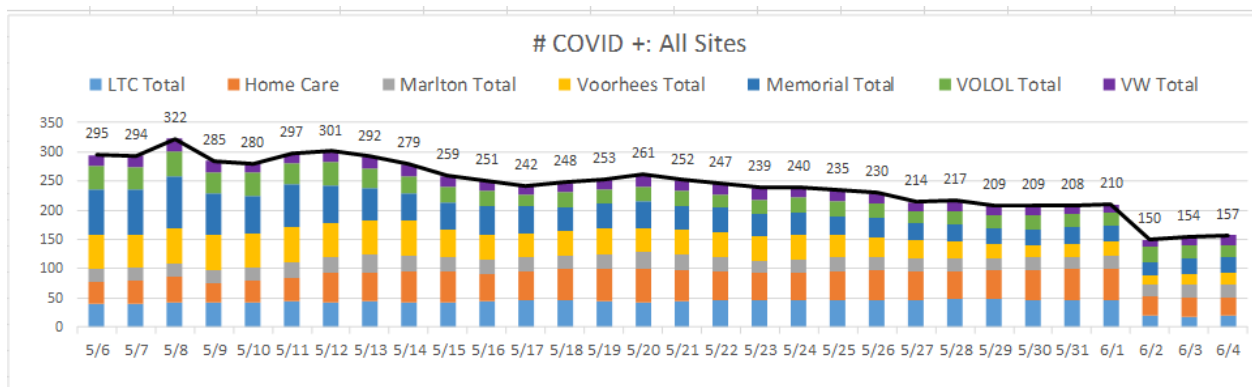
Earlier this week, we shared a message sent by Virtua President & CEO Dennis Pullin concerning recent events related to the death of George Floyd and the nationwide, now worldwide, public demonstrations in response. In remembrance of Mr. Floyd and countless others, Virtua Health will join health care organizations throughout the Philadelphia region to come together in solidarity on **Friday, June 5** at 1 p.m.

We invite you to show your support by either kneeling with your fellow colleagues outside of your Virtua facility at the main entrances or joining in spirit by placing your hand over your heart at 1 p.m. We ask that you continue to be mindful of patient, visitor, and colleague safety and to maintain social distancing, wearing masks, and being aware and respectful of those arriving for care.

We encourage you to please post photos of your gathering on social media using #WhiteCoatsForBlackLives.

### By the Numbers

The following chart reflects the latest figures for Virtua-site cases of COVID-19.



### Fast Facts

- In just three months, Virtua opened six COVID-19 testing sites and have so far, conducted over 9,000 tests.
- Based on NJHA data on tests returned May 30, the statewide test positivity rate is 4.28 percent.
- Currently, the rate of transmission in the state of New Jersey is 0.84
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 809 deaths, as of 1 p.m. today. The total number of cases are as follows:

- Burlington County      4,725
- Camden County          6,663
- Gloucester County      2,290

## **Virtua Leadership and Orthopedics Optimization**

As part of our strategic integration initiatives, we continue to align programs and services across Virtua Health. Prior to COVID-19, we started to shift the appropriate settings of care to optimize care delivery at our hospitals and we are now positioned to reactivate that planning. Effective June 15, the following administrative and clinical leadership changes will take effect:

John Kirby, senior vice president and chief operating officer at Virtua Memorial Hospital, and his OMG team will assume responsibility for Virtua Willingboro Hospital. In this additional role, John will lead consolidation of campus offerings to serve the Burlington County community.

Mark Nessel and his OMG team will focus on important expansion efforts. As senior vice president and chief operating officer at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Mark will lead significant campus-wide construction and service line transformation with advances in tertiary care development.

Coinciding with this change in administrative leadership, we will continue to optimize clinical services between Virtua Memorial and Willingboro Hospitals. Specifically, orthopedic surgical services at Willingboro will transition to Memorial to support the development of our comprehensive program and expanded access to care. Four surgeons will be contributing to the growth of the orthopedics team:

- Orin Atlas, MD, specializing in neck and back surgery (Dr. Atlas is currently on both medical staffs and is now consolidating his care at Memorial)
- Ryan Danowski, DO, specializing in hand, wrist and elbow surgery
- Sean McMillan, DO, specializing in sports medicine and joint replacement
- Efran Paz, DO, specializing in hip and knee joint replacement

Virtua Willingboro Hospital will continue to be an integral part of the community with a focus on emergency, behavioral health, medical, and surgical services. In addition, specialty programs such as wound care and long-term acute-care will remain essential to the campus. Investments are underway to improve the Willingboro facility and infrastructure, and to integrate a single electronic medical record via EPIC.

We appreciate the support and collaboration of many colleagues in these transitions to benefit our communities and we are thankful for the leadership from Mark, John and our orthopedic surgeons in the opportunities ahead.

## **Long-Term Care Report**

Yesterday the NJ Department of Health released a report developed by [Manatt Health](#), a legal, advocacy and business strategy consulting firm, assessing the state's COVID-19 response related to long term care. Recognizing that COVID-19 exacerbated longstanding, underlying systemic issues affecting nursing home and outlining the ways that the pandemic made long-term care (LTC) providers at particular risk, the agency offered a set of short-term and long-term recommendations for how we make this crisis an opportunity to improve care going forward. They include:

- Strengthening emergency response capacity through better planning, coordination and implementation of responses
- Stabilizing facilities and bolstering the workforce by improving financial and educational resources
- Increasing transparency and accountability by instituting new regulatory and monitoring procedures, enhancing oversight and rationalizing and centralizing data collection and analysis
- Building a more resilient and higher quality LTC system through structures for stronger collaboration, payment and delivery reforms, stronger state agency alignment, and improved and increased reliance on home and community-based care.
- Creating a Governor’s Task Force on Transforming New Jersey’s LTC Delivery System.

In summarizing the report, the New Jersey Hospital Association asserted, “We are committed to working together on the road ahead to enact positive change for long-term care residents and staff. This report provides an opportunity to learn and improve; continuous quality improvement is at the heart of good care, especially for our most frail and vulnerable populations.” Their full response to the report can be found [here](#)

### **FDA Launches COVID-19 Health Professionals Site**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has developed a [compendium](#) page dedicated to keeping healthcare professionals alerted to new COVID-19 resources, including information on emergency use authorizations, personal protective equipment and medical products, including investigational drugs and fraudulent devices.

### **Transitioning *Clinician Update***

Since late March, we have worked to provide Virtua clinicians with a regular source of news and information related the COVID-10 pandemic, and our recent survey indicated that a majority of Virtua physicians recognize and value this resource. As we have now resumed services and elective procedures and we have begun recovery efforts across Virtua, we plan to continue this email publication on a weekly basis, and expanding its focus to include service, program and clinician updates beyond the novel coronavirus. Look for the new *Clinician Update* starting next week.