

COVID-19 Clinician Update
Thursday, April 23, 2020

COVID-19 Survey – Share Your Opinion

Our team is working to ensure our clinicians 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. The survey closes Friday April 24 at 5 p.m.

Virtua Contributes to National Study; Two Local Families Await Joyful Reunions

At a time when we could all use a little hope, [meet two Virtua Voorhees patients](#) who are making remarkable recoveries from severe cases of COVID-19. These individuals are among the first people in the country to undergo a new, experimental therapy using donor-provided plasma. Virtua’s Dr. Lukasz Polisiakiewicz and Dr. Eric Szejman led a multidisciplinary team in a round-the-clock effort to attempt this promising treatment option. Not only are Virtua colleagues on the front lines of patient care; we are also on the front lines of research and clinical trials.

This heartwarming story has become an overnight news sensation, with coverage on all the local television networks and front-page articles in newspapers. [Watch CBS3’s report here.](#)

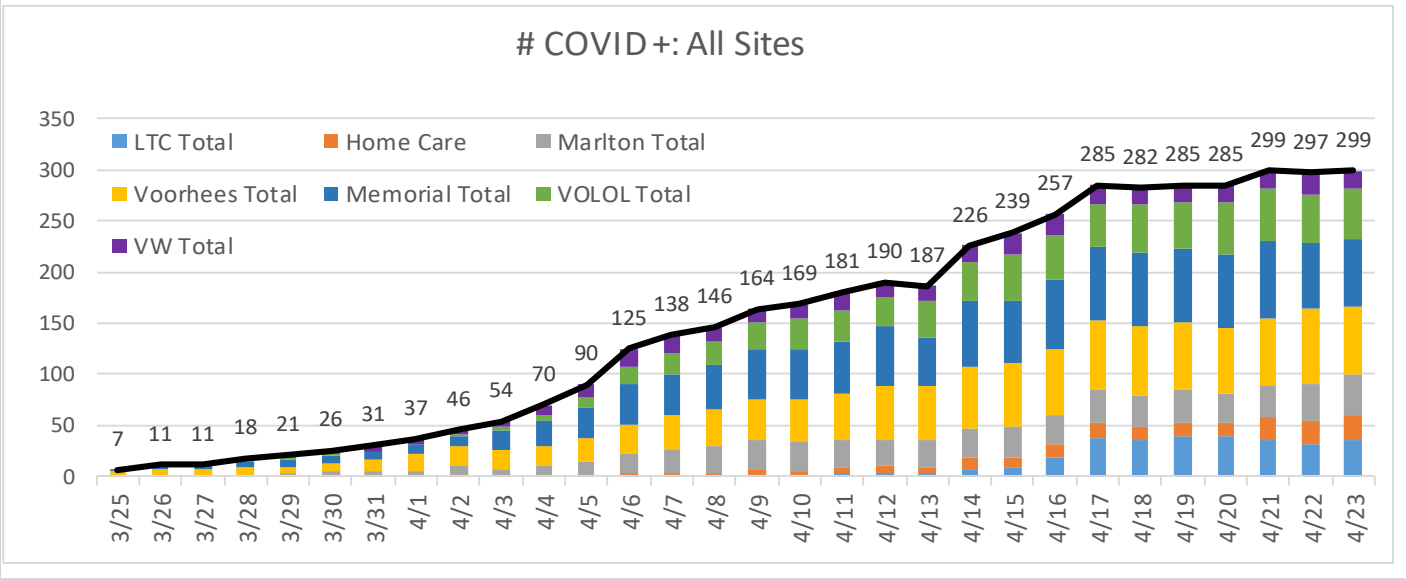
And it gets better: on Tuesday, the first plasma recipient, Renee Bannister of Gloucester County, was transferred from the hospital to a rehabilitation center – another major milestone in her recovery. In true Virtua fashion, the Voorhees team gave her a grand send-off with music, applause, and cheering.

[Watch it here.](#) Once again Virtua is #HereForGood and here to support our community!.

By the Numbers

The following charts reflect the latest figures for statewide and Virtua-site cases of COVID-19 and related response efforts.

NEW JERSEY		VIRTUA HEALTH		Data Snapshot
New Cases	4,124	Total Cases*	299 (+2)	* Virtua cases include hospitals, home care and long-term care.
Total Cases	99,989	Rule Outs/Patients Under Investigation (PUIs)	73 (+8)	**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 4/23.
New Deaths	305	COVID-19 % of Census	36%	
Total Lives Lost	5,368			Source: Department of Health New Jersey COVID-19 Dashboard
Hospital Discharges**	752			



Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 210 deaths, as of 1 p.m. on April 23. The total number of cases are as follows:

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- Burlington County 1,969
- Camden County 2,683
- Gloucester County 899

Virtua Brings Ease of Mind to Residents of Willingboro

To meet a significant need for the residents of one of Burlington County’s largest municipalities struck hard by COVID-19, Virtua opened its drive-thru testing center on Monday, located across the street from Virtua Willingboro Hospital. Thus far, the team has tested more than 125 people.

Listen to Vice President of Operations Virtua Medical Group, Sarah Sivon explain why the testing center is so very important to the health and safety of the residents in this area. Click [here](#) to learn more.

NJ Collecting Disparities Data

Yesterday Gov. Murphy signed legislation requiring hospitals to report COVID-19 demographic data to the state Department of Health. Hospitals will now report the age, ethnicity, gender and race of all COVID-19-positive cases. Early CDC data has indicated the disparate impact of COVID-19 among African Americans, data that has been borne out in New Jersey data thus far. African Americans comprise 14 percent of the state’s residents, but represent 22 percent of the more than 5,000 residents who have died from the virus.

Ear Loop Masks to be Worn by Patients During Transfers

All hospitalized and Emergency Department patients requiring transport to any area for testing, admission, or discharge will be expected to wear an ear loop mask. Likewise, any outpatients coming in for testing will also be required to wear a mask. Virtua will provide a mask to anyone entering our facilities who does not have one.

Inspirational Moments Across Virtua Health

- **Hope in Action** - Carla Hill, a physical therapist at Voorhees Hospital likes to make her patients feel comfortable with laughter during this unusual time of caring “virtually.” She and her fellow Virtua colleagues, Paramedic Mike DeAngelis and Home Care Case Manager Mary Alice Lynch are finding their way through this pandemic, showing up with determination and creativity, and making connecting with patients and our community a grounding focus.

In our fourth episode of Hope in Action, you can listen in as Virtua CEO Dennis Pullin connects with frontline teams, whether they are serving as first responders in the field, linking with their clients via video, or bringing the care to people in their homes. Their hopes, fears, and lessons learned are bound to inspire you. Click [here](#) to enjoy.

- **Rise Up and Recognize that You are Making History** - The bravery, strength, and sacrifice of health care workers is something the world will remember for years to come. These photos from the frontline reflect the teamwork and dedication exhibited every day at Virtua, and this song of hope reminds us that, together, we can overcome impossible odds. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this music video, especially Melanie Polizzi of Virtua Memorial Hospital for the inspiration and Jessica DiDonato and Bob Fowler for providing us with a special arrangement of the song. Of special note, Jessica has shared her beautiful voice with us in the past at our Super Star awards and most recently at our annual Gala. [Play Video](#)
- **These Siren Sounds Were Warm and Welcome** - On Tuesday night in Camden, dozens of first responders saluted frontline medical workers at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital with sirens blaring and horns honking. Camden County Police Chief Joseph Wysocki said they do it not just for the deserving doctors and nurses, but the environmental services team, security guards, technicians, and everyone. We grabbed this exciting footage from [Chris O’Connell of Fox29 Philadelphia](#).
- **Join Virtua Colleagues on Facebook** - These days, more than ever, we could all benefit from some positive news, which is why we created a private Facebook Group called “Virtua Colleagues – Official Group.”

If you are a Facebook user, please consider joining your 1,200+ colleagues who are already sharing hope, support, ideas and camaraderie. [Join today!](#)

Here, you can join in on meaningful colleague discussions, share in the many ways the community is showing their support and lifting us up during this time, and see all the ways fellow colleagues are rising to the call across Virtua and throughout the community.