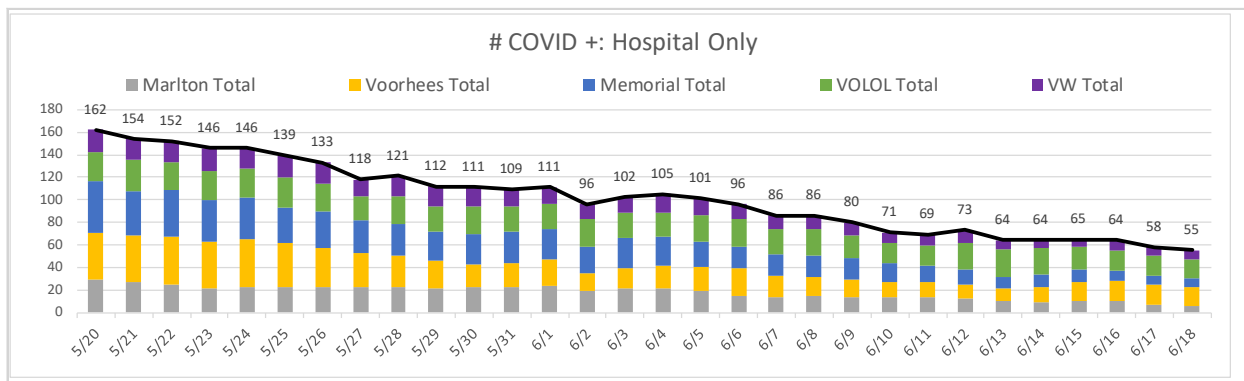
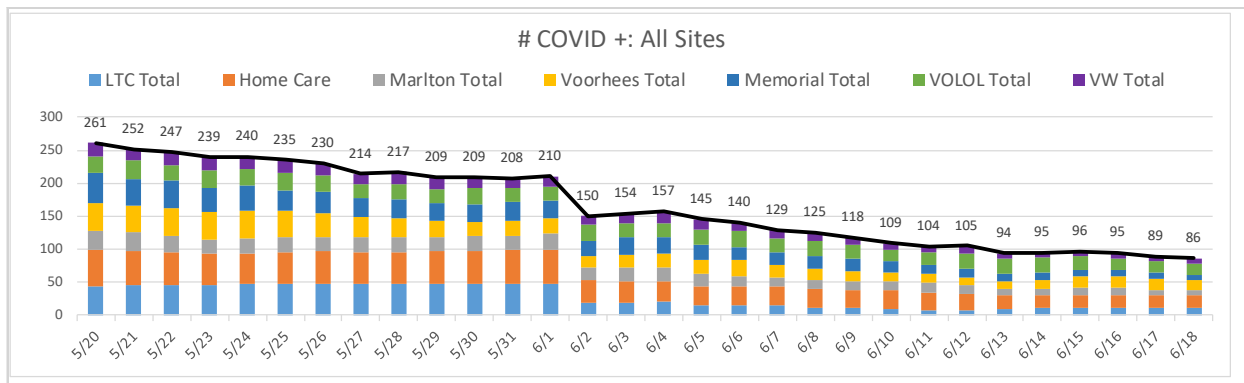


CLINICIAN UPDATE

JUNE 18, 2020

By the Numbers

The following charts reflect the latest figures for Virtua-site cases of COVID-19.



Fast Facts

- Based on tests returned from June 17, the statewide test positivity rate is 3.5 percent.
- Currently, the rate of transmission in New Jersey is 0.7.
- Statewide, there have been 43 cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome among children, with no fatalities.
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 951 deaths, as of 1 p.m. today.
The total number of cases are as follows:
 - Burlington County 4,954
 - Camden County 7,061
 - Gloucester County 2,438

Important Update about Wearing Eye Protection

Goggles or face shields must be worn to establish Universal Precautions for both COVID-19 and non-COVID patient encounters. As such, **all colleagues are to wear eye protection when entering a patient room with the exception of Food Services colleagues.** (Food Services colleagues should only be delivering trays to non-COVID-19 patient rooms and are not required to wear eye protection.)

Along with the [safe conservation of masks](#), we also encourage colleagues to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on successfully conserving our face shields. By developing a responsible collection process, we can reprocess and fully disinfect the shields. To learn more about the proper donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE), see this [video](#).

Travel Advisory Update

Last week Virtua updated its travel policy for all colleagues and clinicians working at its facilities. Virtua Employee Health and Infection Control will be locating and reviewing COVID-19 hot spots and issuing travel advisories on a weekly basis. The team is reviewing data by location and encourages all to monitor updates when planning travel outside the Delaware Valley region. For colleagues and clinicians planning domestic travel, this week's Virtua travel advisory includes the states of **Florida, Texas, Arizona, North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Alabama**.

Virtua colleagues and clinicians traveling to these areas, as well as **any international travel**, are required to call the colleague hotline at **609-444-2828** upon return for guidance and return to work. Additionally, colleagues traveling to those areas may be subject to a 14-day period of self-monitoring before returning to work. During that monitoring period, colleagues will be required to use their own paid time off and/or may need to take time off on an unpaid basis, if no paid time off is available. Any return to work request under these circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by Employee Health, Infection Control, and/or other organizational leaders.

When traveling, continue to maintain social distancing, wear masks in public, disinfect surfaces on planes and buses, and refrain from crowds or settings where risk of infection may occur.

Phased Reopening of Virtua Corporate and Administrative Offices

For the past three months — as we navigated through these unprecedented times together — more than 1,400 office-based colleagues at Virtua Health have been working remotely. Our colleagues have been resourceful, dedicated, and enthusiastic in meeting operational needs and productivity standards during this time.

Virtua is now ready to begin a “phased-in approach” to reopening its corporate and administrative offices, effective **Monday, July 6**. Guidelines are based on state and federal recommendations, as well as industry best practices. Remote work will continue as an integral part of each reopening phase as Virtua adapts and leverages new ways of working. The plan calls for up to one-third of the workforce to return in three staged phases, with a timeline that stretches into the fall.

Protecting the health and safety of returning colleagues is paramount to our planning. All locations are being prepared for safe re-entry. In accordance with our internal experts, we have developed office protocols and guidelines for social distancing and enhanced cleaning and sanitizing.

Just as important, colleagues must understand their critical role in the process — personal accountability to safety measures. Accordingly, all leaders and colleagues will complete mandatory education through the Virtua Learning System before returning to the office.

Virtua Hospitals: Laboratory Specimen Collection Protocol for COVID-19

For COVID-19 lab specimens sent using the pneumatic tube system, a label MUST be affixed to the specimen bag with the message “Suspected Contagious Respiratory.” Further, staff will:

- Print patient labels to be put on appropriate tubes/bottles at the bedside for tests required.
- Place specimens in a biohazard bag. Then, have a buddy/co-worker at the doorway with another lab specimen biohazard bag and place original sealed specimen bag into new bag and seal.
- MUST label the specimen with “Suspected Contagious Respiratory” to ensure that the lab is notified that the specimen is a COVID-19 test.
- Use the pneumatic tube system to send all COVID-19 specimens to the lab.

NJ Reopening Plans Continue

On **June 15**, Governor Phil Murphy announced that [New Jersey has entered Stage 2](#) with the opening of outdoor dining for restaurants as well as indoor and non-essential retail. Beginning **Monday, June 22**, barber shops and salons will be able to reopen. In the period to follow, New Jersey will work toward the gradual opening of personal care services, gyms, and health clubs, at reduced capacities as the stage progresses. Specific guidance for reopening while social distancing at these facilities can be found here:

- [Outdoor sports](#)
- [Public pools](#)
- [Youth camps](#)
- [Personal care services](#)

Guidance is still being developed for colleges and universities to re-open for in-person instruction. The governor’s plan calls for a July 1 resumption of in-person clinical, lab and hands-on programming at institutions of higher education, and career and training schools, subject to health and safety protocols from oversight agencies.

Virtua Neurosurgery Chief Pens Op-Ed

Patrick J. Connolly, Chief of Neurosurgery for Virtua Health and clinical associate of neurosurgery at Penn Medicine, recently [published](#) his reflections on the pandemic in an opinion piece for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In it, he expresses his admiration for his colleagues’ “grace under pressure,” and shares his hopes for the future. “Community is like gravity in this way. It holds us all to Earth, a counterweight to the uncertainties brought by the coronavirus. Maybe this immutable force could be part of our new normal.”

Help Your Community by Giving Blood

The American Red Cross continues to report a need for blood due to the return of postponed surgeries and procedures. Blood drives are scheduled throughout South Jersey at various Virtua locations in the days ahead. Virtua Health is working with the American Red Cross to host several upcoming blood drives. The dates are as follows:

Thursday, June 25 — Virtua Marlton Hospital, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 26 — Virtua Voorhees Hospital, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, July 1 — Virtua Marlton Hospital, 2 to 7 p.m.
Thursday, July 2 — Virtua William G. Rohrer Fitness Center, Voorhees, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Monday, July 13 — Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Moorestown, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Monday, July 13 — Virtua Memorial Hospital, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday, July 15 — Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Washington Township, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Friday, July 17 — Virtua Voorhees Hospital, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, July 24 — Virtua Memorial Hospital, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Friday, July 24 — Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Cherry Hill, 2 to 7 p.m.
Monday, July 27 — Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Berlin, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 30 — Virtua Willingboro Hospital, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Monday, August 3 — Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Moorestown, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursday, August 6 — Virtua Health & Wellness Center – Berlin, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Friday, August 14 — 303 Lippincott Drive, Marlton, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursday, August 27 — Virtua Marlton Hospital, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Red Cross continues to take additional measures to ensure the safety of its donors and recipients. These include donor temperature screenings, additional screening questions, enhanced disinfecting, and social distancing, among other tactics. It is quick and easy to sign up for our blood drives. Appointments are preferred and can be arranged online [here](#). Use sponsor code “Virtua.”

Additionally, the Red Cross encourages individuals who have fully recovered from COVID-19 to sign up to give convalescent plasma by completing the Donor Information Form on their website at www.RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid. If the individual is eligible to give, a Red Cross representative will contact them to schedule a donation appointment at a Red Cross or another blood collection organization’s facility near them. Please note that plasma is collected by appointment only.

New NJHCQI Session: Veterans and Advanced Care Planning

Yesterday the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute held a community webinar, *“Having the Conversation: The Heart of the Veteran and Advance Care Planning”*. A video recording of the session is now available [here](#). NJHCQI has been making their resources and public-facing programs, including a recent webinar on *“Five Wishes Made Easy”*, available on their website www.njhcqi.org.