

COVID-19 Clinician Update

Tuesday, May 19

Virtua to Resume Elective Surgery

On Friday, May 15, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy signed an executive order allowing the resumption of non-emergent procedures beginning Tuesday, May 26 at 5 a.m.

At Virtua, a senior leadership team from across all areas of the organization have developed reactivation plans to support how we bring patients back for care while always keeping safety top of mind for patients, colleagues, and our physicians. We are planning for a phased reopening of scheduled surgeries starting May 26.

Throughout this process and moving forward, our focus is on ensuring both patient and colleague safety. For example, as outlined in the state guidelines, patients will be tested for COVID-19 within 72 hours of surgery, as well as checked for symptoms the day of surgery. Patients who test positive for COVID-19 prior to surgery or who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will not have an elective surgical procedure. In addition, every hospital will have a plan that provides for COVID and non-COVID treatment spaces. Across every setting where patients are cared for, we will implement social distancing standards and other infection prevention practices.

“Due to the incredible work and sacrifice of our residents, we are now positioned to take another vital step forward in New Jersey's restart and recovery process,” said Gov. Murphy. “While still focusing on the importance of our COVID-19 response, our health care systems now have the capacity and resources to resume the critical role of serving their patients and ensuring the health of our communities.”

“We want community members to know that Virtua is prepared for how we treat people with and without COVID, safely and separately,” said John Matsinger, DO, executive vice president and chief operating officer. “We have taken important safety precautions, and we’re here to treat any condition and take care of any patient, whether they have COVID-19 or not. It’s important that people see their primary care physicians and maintain their health, or less-urgent situations can turn into emergency situations that put their health, even their lives, at risk.”

We will communicate with you further as reactivation plans are finalized.

By the Numbers

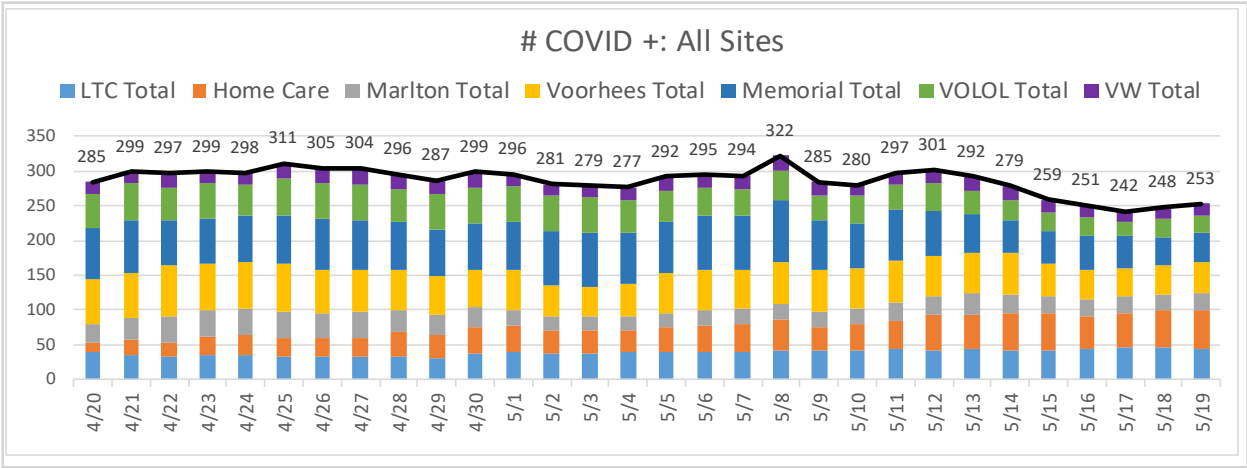
The following charts reflect the latest figures for statewide and Virtua-site cases of COVID-19 and related response efforts.

NEW JERSEY		VIRTUA HEALTH	
New Cases	974	Total Cases*	253 (+5)
Total Cases	149,013	Rule Outs/Patients Under Investigation (PUIs)	79 (+14)
New Deaths	151	COVID-19 % of Census	27%
Total Lives Lost	10,586		
Hospital Discharges**	161		

Data Snapshot

* Virtua cases include hospitals, home care and long-term care.
 **Hospital COVID/PUI discharges in NJ based on prior 24 hours.
 Source: Department of Health New Jersey COVID-19 Dashboard

COVID+ graphs now display most recent 30 days, rather than trending back to first patient in March.



Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 651 deaths, as of 1 p.m. on May 19. The total number of cases are as follows:

- Burlington County 4,000
- Camden County 5,644
- Gloucester County 1,935

Important Updates on Eye Protection, Isolation Gowns

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

The stock of Virtua’s primary blue isolation gowns have been depleted. An alternative blue isolation gown, in different packaging, is now being distributed.

Hear from Our Voice of Virtua — Dr. Ronald Klebacher

We have our first physician “selfie” video, and just in time for National EMS Week. Dr. Ronald Klebacher, medical director of Emergency Medical Services, would like to thank our EMS colleagues for their perseverance, dedication, and professionalism during these trying times. He is proud to be a part of this stellar team and organization. Click [here](#) to view the video or cut and paste the following link: <https://bcove.video/3dPYbAa>.

We encourage you to send in your selfie video to VirtuaHealthVideos@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact Grace Roche at 856-355-0811. Please be sure that your video is under two minutes, is shot in a well-lit, quiet environment, and that your phone is positioned for a wide or horizontal shot. Featured clinicians will be entered to win a [#RespectThe6Feet t-shirt](#).

Flyover Honoring Frontline Workers Touches Dr. Paul Devers

Among the many people who enjoyed last week’s flyover of Virtua hospitals by the 514th Air Mobility Wing, Dr. Paul Devers had two distinct reasons to feel pride. Dr. Devers is the associate medical director of informatics and a family medicine physician with Virtua Health, as well as the chief of aerospace medicine with the New York-based 105th Airlift Wing.

Whether it’s regarding the military or medicine, Dr. Devers knows the importance of teamwork, and expresses his admiration for his Virtua colleagues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I visited the Virtua Memorial Hospital ICU, and was so impressed by how the team had everything under control and running smoothly,” said Dr. Devers. “In the military, we use the expression, ‘who would you want in your foxhole?’ It essentially means, ‘who would you trust with your life?’ After what I witnessed, I would take any one of them.”

Share Why Virtua is a Best Place to Work

Virtua has long been featured as a “Best Place to Work” in the Philadelphia Business Journal’s annual survey. To help make sure we are on the list for 2020 — a year when we’ve proven our commitment to the community like never before — please take this year’s survey. The survey is simple and takes only a few short minutes. **The deadline to take the survey is this Friday, May 22.**

Please click here to take the survey or cut and paste the following link:

https://survey.quantumworkplace.com/bpsurvey/language/oc_QCWX87929/