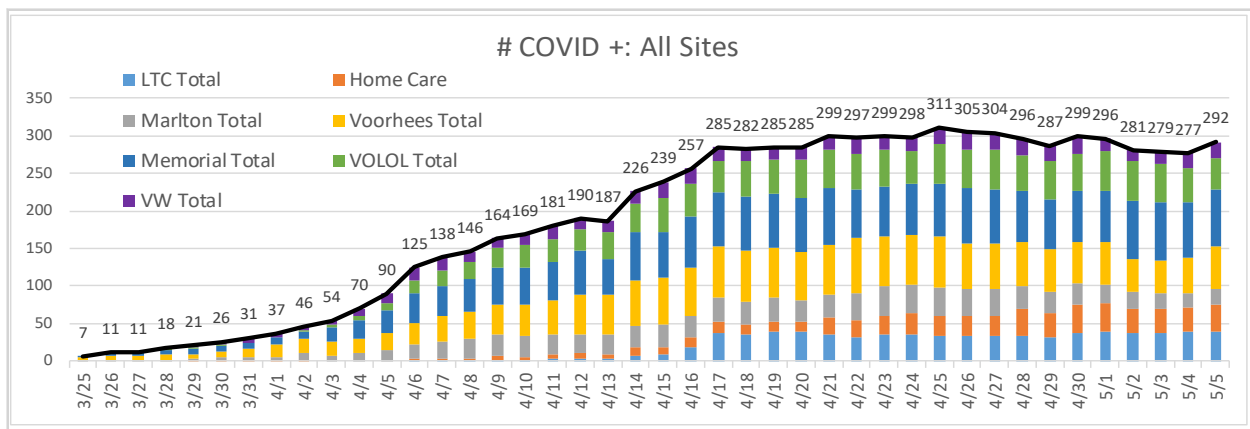


**COVID-19 Clinician Update**  
**Tuesday, May 5**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Virtua hospitals have successfully discharged</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">753</p> <p><b>COVID/PUI inpatients.</b></p> | <p><b>Virtua has conducted</b></p> <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; color: white;">11,235</p> <p><b>COVID tests.</b></p> |
|---|--|

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   |
|------------------------------|---------|--|-----------|---|
| <b>New Cases</b>             | 2,324   | <b>Total Cases*</b>                                  | 292 (+15) | * Virtua cases include hospitals, home care and long-term care. |
| <b>Total Cases</b>           | 130,593 | <b>Rule Outs/Patients Under Investigation (PUIs)</b> | 95 (+1)   | **Hospital COVID/PUI discharges in NJ based on prior 24 hours.  |
| <b>New Deaths</b>            | 334     | <b>COVID-19 % of Census</b>                          | 37%       | Source: Department of Health New Jersey COVID-19 Dashboard      |
| <b>Total Lives Lost</b>      | 8,244   |  |           |   |
| <b>Hospital Discharges**</b> | 232     |  |           |   |



Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 405 deaths, as of 1 p.m. on May 5. The total number of cases are as follows:

- Burlington County 3,207
- Camden County 4,251
- Gloucester County 1,467

## **Pulse Ox Pilot Program for COVID-19 Patients Launched**

As you may have read in [New York Times](#), some COVID-19 patients who appeared to be high functioning with no apparent breathing difficulties actually had “silent hypoxia.” Once these patients started to decompensate, they had very difficult presentations of pneumonia from which it has been difficult to recover. Identifying and treating these patients earlier, however, has shown to improve outcomes and avoid the need for ventilators.

Beginning yesterday, May 4, patients seen in the Emergency Department at Virtua Voorhees Hospital with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 symptoms, not warranting hospitalization, are being discharged with pulse oximeters. Patients will monitor their oxygen levels while remaining in their own homes. Patients are instructed to check and record their oxygen levels throughout the day, and if they show a significant drop from their baseline, should return to the ED for treatment to prevent pneumonia. Virtua plans to quickly expand this implementation system-wide over time. *(At this time, due to limits in availability of pulse oximeters nationally, the program is limited to patients seen in the ED. While symptomatic patients may be advised to purchase pulse ox from local pharmacies, there is likely to be a backorder in place.)*

In another strategy, recovering COVID-19 patients will be offered the opportunity to go home from the hospital sooner, equipped with a home monitoring kit, which will include a pulse oximeter, blood pressure monitor, and ability to conduct video visits. The kit, from a company called Vivify, has been successfully used with Medicare high-risk patients by the telehealth team within LHS Health Network. For COVID-19 patients, this effort offers the chance for recovery in one’s own environment while providing a way to monitor their health and to seek help at the first sign of hypoxia. A go-live date is still being scheduled, but will be available to patients who are among the covered lives in Virtua’s Clinically Integrated Network.

## **Meeting Your Outpatient Imaging Needs**

South Jersey Radiology, Larchmont Imaging, and Virtua Heath are accepting outpatients for imaging needs during the COVID Stay-at-Home Order. Patients with cancer, vascular disease, or other conditions requiring imaging should continue their care to avoid more significant complications downstream.

These patients should ideally utilize outpatient facilities for imaging (SJRA offices, Larchmont offices, Virtua outpatient facilities) for their safety and for better management of hospital resources.

- **Virtua**
  - Currently accepting all radiology cases
- **South Jersey Radiology**
  - Accepting all radiology cases other than patients with symptomatic COVID-19 or COVID-suspect. Due to limited PPE availability, those patients are being referred to Virtua for services.
  - Currently performing all scans with the exception of screening mammography, screening lung cancer CT, DEXA, and virtual colonoscopy, which will start Monday, May 11.
  - Walk-ins for X-rays are permitted, except:
    - Chest X-ray for any patient – Please call for an appointment.
    - Any X-ray for symptomatic COVID-19 or COVID-suspect patient – Please call for an appointment.
- **Larchmont Imaging**
  - Currently not seeing patients referred with possible COVID symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath)
  - Currently performing all scans with the exception of screening mammography, screening lung cancer CT, DEXA, and virtual colonoscopy, which will start Monday, May 18.

Please consult our respective websites or call the facility of your choice with any questions.

## **Cardiologist Shares Recovery from COVID-Related Stroke**

Virtua cardiologist Troy Randle, DO, FACC, FACOI, was well on his way to recovery from COVID-19, or so he thought. When the intense, vice-like headache that heralded his initial symptoms returned, he tried to power through it. But at the insistence of his wife, who is also a NP, he went to the emergency room. Thankfully he did. Dr. Randle had suffered a stroke.

Dr. Randle knows he is lucky. His stroke left no neurological damage. Wanting to alert the community to the risk of COVID-related stroke and his personal journey, Dr. Randle [shared his story](#), which was picked up by [6ABC](#), the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), and many other regional and state outlets.

## **Recognizing Our Outstanding Nurses**

Nurses are the lynchpin of our healthcare system, and even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. So during National Nurses Week (Wednesday, May 6 to Tuesday, May 12), we recognize and express our sincere thanks to the nurses in our facilities and your offices.

You're invited to share your expressions of appreciation on [Virtua's Facebook page](#).

## **No VPP/LSHN Webinar Tonight**

Please note that we have cancelled the weekly VPP/LHN webinar originally scheduled for today at 6 p.m. The next webinar date and Skype details will be sent via Outlook invite.