

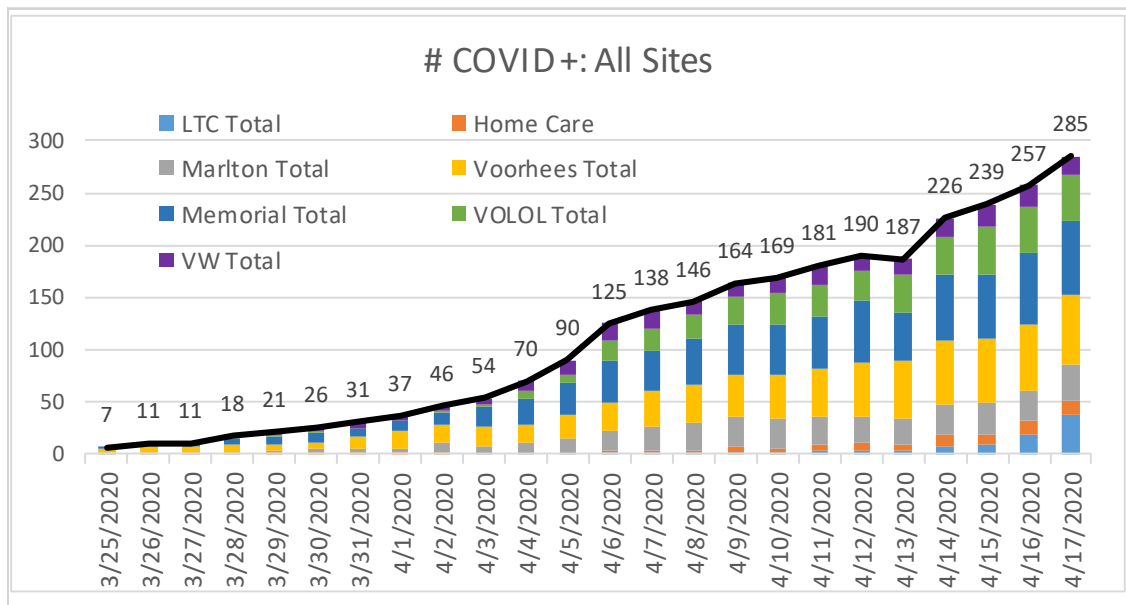
COVID-19 Provider Update
Friday, April 17, 2020

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	3,250	Total Cases	285 (+28)
Total Cases	78,467	Rule Outs/Patients Under Investigation (PUIs)	74 (-18)
New Deaths	323	COVID-19 % of Census	38%
Total Lives Lost	3,840		
Recovered	1,088		

Dashboard and Snapshot of Data
 As you see from the tables and graphs, the number of COVID-19 patients is increasing in New Jersey. We will continue to provide transparency into the impact on Virtua, as the information helps us manage decisions around staffing, PPE, supplies, capacity, and other important resources.



Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 140 deaths, as of this printing. The total number of cases are as follows:

Burlington 1,366
 Camden 1,807
 Gloucester 664

More Testing Access for Our Community

Virtua Health will open a coronavirus screening and testing center on the campus of Virtua Willingboro Hospital starting Monday, April 20 at noon.

The testing site, which will be available specifically to Willingboro residents or patients referred by Virtua Medical Group physicians, will be open Monday through Friday from noon until 4:00 p.m. Testing will be limited to patients who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, fever of 100°F or higher) **and** at least one of the risk factors listed below.

- Working in health care or as a first responder (EMS, fire, police, etc.)
- Residing in an institutional home-setting (group home, U.S. Armed Forces housing)
- Being 65 years old or older
- Compromised immunity
- Pregnancy
- Chronic lung disease
- Congestive heart failure
- End-stage renal disease/dialysis
- Uncontrolled diabetes
- Vulnerable household contact with someone at high risk

To assist with referral, clinicians please note:

- VMG Providers: For patients who warrant testing, call the clinician hotline at 856-246-4117. The team there will call the patient directly to arrange an appointment for testing.
- For VPP LSHN Providers: If your patient is a Willingboro resident who warrants testing, direct them to the site where a provider will conduct a verification screening and, if appropriate, testing. No appointment is necessary as this will be handled through the “walk-up” process.

The opening comes after productive and collaborative conversations between Dennis Pullin, president and CEO of Virtua, and Senator Troy Singleton. In addition, U.S. Representative Andy Kim has also been a compelling advocate for additional testing in the county. “We were seeing an alarming number of coronavirus cases in Willingboro, significantly higher than other parts of Burlington County, and we all just knew we had to do something,” said Singleton.

The make-up of the 31,000-person community includes a significant number of seniors, many retired veterans, as well as numerous commuters who travel into New York and Philadelphia, many who are essential workers. The population is also comprised of approximately 60% African Americans, which early statistics point to as being disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.

Special thanks to Rebecca Lynch, Sarah Sivon, Dr. Sam Weiner and the VMG team rallying to establish this third ambulatory community testing site.

COVID-19 Provider Survey – Share Your Opinion

Our team is working to ensure our providers 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.

Clinician Webinar Highlights Plans, Clinician Engagement

On Tuesday night, more than 400 Virtua physicians participated in a network-wide Zoom meeting to learn about how we are working to address the pandemic.

Martin Topiel, M.D., Chief of Infectious Diseases, and Reg Blaber, M.D., Chief Clinical Officer, presented on our current state, proper allocation of supplies and PPE, surge plans and the collaborative efforts among the region's health systems. Chief Medical Officer, Jennifer Khelil, D.O., outlined the various executive orders that Gov. Phil Murphy has signed that are allowing hospitals to address critical staffing issues, allowing providers to extend their scope of practice and for retired physicians to join the effort, bypassing some of the normal credentialing requirements.

VMG Medical Director of Specialties and Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care physician, Eric Szejman, M.D., who organized and led the meeting, noted the high level of engagement and support from our providers, with clinicians who call him every day with a willingness to step up and to meet the need. He commented, "We are grateful for the hundreds of clinicians who have reached out to help. It is a credit to their commitment to our community and to our organization. We can't thank them enough."

CDC Epidemiology Study Released

In order to share the evolving epidemiology of COVID-19, the CDC has released a [study](#) evaluating the demographics of individuals hospitalized from COVID-19 between March 1 and March 30. The study examined all confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations among all ages in 14 states, including New York but not New Jersey. The cohort represented about 10 percent of the U.S. population and found:

- Adults age 50 and older are much more likely (74.5 percent) to be hospitalized.
- Men accounted for 54.4 percent of hospitalizations.
- African Americans were hospitalized at a rate nearly twice as high (33%) as their overall population (18%) in the states studied.
- The overwhelming majority of hospitalized patients (90%) had one or more of the following underlying conditions: hypertension, obesity, chronic lung disease, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease.
- Persons 85 or older were admitted at a higher rate for COVID-19 than for recent flu outbreaks (17.2 per 100,000 compared to 2.2 to 5.4 per 100,000).

The CDC stressed that this data is preliminary and its collection will be ongoing.

Dr. Martin Topiel Returns for a Second Podcast Conversation

The first Here For Good podcast episode featuring Dr. Martin Topiel, our head of infectious diseases, was so popular, he came back for a second conversation with Dennis Pullin, our president and CEO. In this follow-up, he talks about the challenges around testing, developing antibodies, the changes in protective equipment recommendations, and managing the constant flow of rapidly changing information. Click [here](#) to listen

Virtua in the News

KYW Newsradio interviewed Emergency Department Medical Director Dr. Dennis Guest about how health care workers are adjusting to COVID-19. Click [here](#) to read or listen to the accompanying interview.