

# COVID-19 Provider Update

Thursday, April 2, 2020

## **New COVID-19 Testing Site to Open in the City of Camden**

Virtua is collaborating with Cooper University Health Care, the Camden County Freeholder Board, and Camden County Health Department to open a new drive-up COVID-19 testing site. The testing site is now open at Cooper's Poynt Park in Camden City. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m. The testing site is open to county residents, by appointment, who have symptoms and meet other criteria, and who have received a referral for testing from a medical provider (at Cooper, Virtua, CamCare, or other provider).

"We must all continue to work together to face this unprecedented challenge, and this expanded testing site is an important part of that response," said Virtua Health President and CEO Dennis W. Pullin, FACHE. "We commend our care teams for their selfless actions and thank them for their heroic work. Together, we will find our way through this crisis."

## **Virtua Telehealth (eVisits)**

Over the last several weeks, Virtua's Digital Health team has been refining the process for patients to receive COVID-19-related consultations through [eVisits](#), working in collaboration with the Access Center, which has identified patient callers who would be willing to participate in an eVisit. Additionally, patients may directly access eVisits, via the Patient Tools section of [Virtua.org](#). During the video visit, a physician or advanced practice clinician will evaluate the patient and record an encounter in Epic, with a note routed to the patient's primary care provider. eVisit providers follow the latest Virtua protocols and can order COVID-19 testing for appropriate patients at one of Virtua's drive-thru centers.

## **Additional Testing Sites**

In addition to Virtua's testing sites, there are now additional testing facilities in our region though there are limitations based on the patient's location and/or provider affiliation.

In Burlington County, a drive-thru testing site, run by the county's Department of Health, is operational based on testing kit availability. Symptomatic county residents do not need to go through a doctor, but they must call 609-726-7097 to be screened and make an appointment.

In Camden County, mobile testing is being offered at Jefferson Health and Cooper Health locations.

- Jefferson patients with a doctor's referral can walk or drive to Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital, 2201 Chapel Ave. W.
- With a referral, pre-registration and appointment, Cooper Health patients can be tested at their ambulatory care center at 1210 Brace Road.
- With a referral, Jefferson Health patients may use their walk or drive up site on the Stratford campus.

In Gloucester County, with a referral, Jefferson Health patients may use their walk or drive up site on their Turnersville campus.

### **Limited Flu Present in Community**

Across all of our testing over the past 6 days, Virtua had only one positive flu test returned. We believe we are in the final phase of flu season and chances of COVID/flu co-infection are minimal.

### **CMS Waivers for COVID-19**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a number of new waivers, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The waivers apply nationwide and are retroactive to March 1, 2020. While a number of the waivers detailed in [this link](#) are related to hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and accountable care organizations, there are several that apply specifically to providers. Among them:

- Medical staff privileges and credentialing
- Expanding access to telehealth, including audio-only visits
- Removing self-referral barriers to responding to COVID-19
- Eliminating certain administrative requirements
- Physician services
- Out-of-state practitioners

### **Bi-weekly Webinars for VPP, LSHN Providers**

A series of bi-weekly webinars are being held for members of Virtua's Clinically Integrated Networks. An invitation is being delivered from [CovidUpdate@thisisvirtua.org](mailto:CovidUpdate@thisisvirtua.org). If you would like to receive an invitation, reply to the address at the bottom of this message. Slide decks from the previous sessions are available in the Coronavirus Update section of [Digital 411](#).

### **Surveys**

Recently a survey was sent to VMG, VPP, LSHN and Virtua Medical Staff providers, requesting information on willingness to support COVID-19 surge plans. If you have not yet responded to the survey, please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VIRTUACOVID19>

In the coming days, providers will also receive a survey to determine how we may better serve you. Look for that link in an upcoming Provider Update.