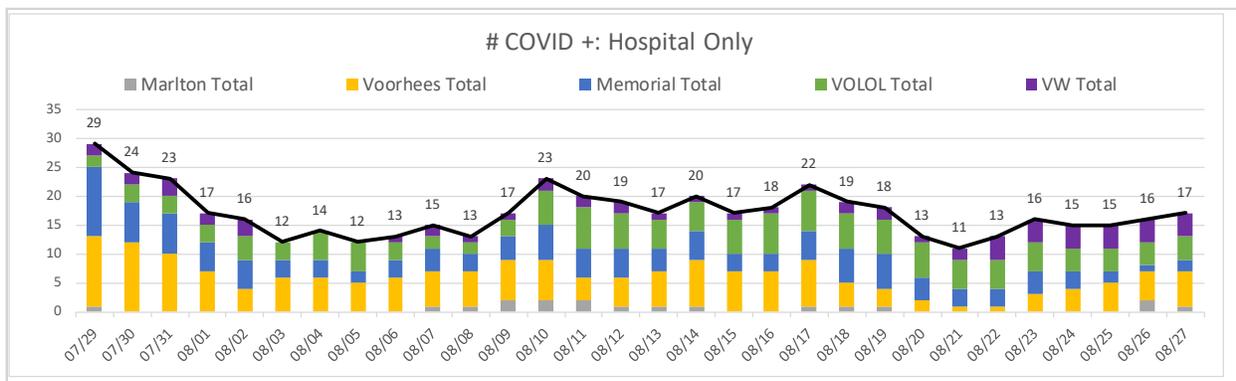
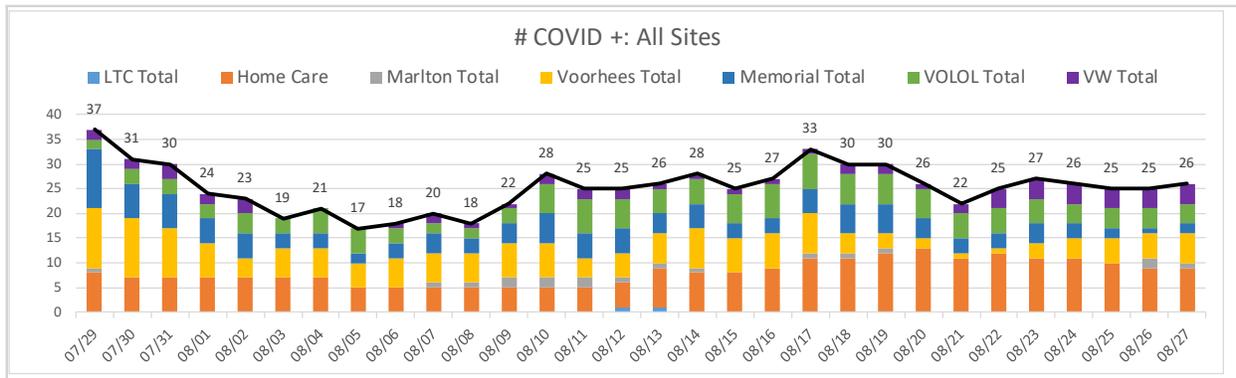


Clinician Update

August 27, 2020

By the Numbers

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



Fast Facts

- As today, the rate of transmission in New Jersey has fallen below 1.0, and is now .78.
- Based on data from Aug. 22, the spot positivity rate for New Jersey is 1.99 percent; however, regionally, South Jersey continues to have the highest percent rate at 2.44 percent, whereas it is 1.97 percent in North Jersey and 1.70 percent in Central Jersey.
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 1,191 confirmed deaths, as of 1 p.m. today. Recently, the state has begun accounting for “probable” deaths from COVID-19, with figures shared separately on the [state dashboard](#). For the three counties, probable deaths would account for an additional 97 fatalities.
- The total number of cases are as follows:
 - Burlington County 6,327
 - Camden County 9,054
 - Gloucester County 3,610

A Reminder about N95 Respirators with Exhalation Valves

Virtua Chief Medical Officer Jennifer Khelil, DO, MBA, and Martin Topiel, MD, Chief of Infectious Disease are reminding clinicians that use of N95 masks with exhalation valves/vents are **not recommended** by the CDC.

The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control. However, masks with one-way valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, which can result in expelled respiratory droplets. This type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others. Therefore, the CDC does not recommend using masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent.

Dr. Topiel's recommendation is to keep an ear loop mask covering on the N95 valve mask anytime it is worn by a healthcare provider. Please see [this link](#) (under "Provider Recommendations") for an illustration of proper use.

Flu Vaccination Program Begins Monday, Aug. 31

Due to the global crisis of COVID-19, Virtua has decided to offer the flu vaccine earlier this year to prepare for uncertainty of this year's flu season. It is crucial that we take steps to protect ourselves, our families, and our patients from the flu virus to prepare for any unknown complications that the novel coronavirus may cause this flu season. Our program will be on Monday Aug. 31 when Virtua's flu vaccination team will be at the Voorhees hospital from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The flu compliancy **deadline this year is Tuesday Oct. 20, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.** All physicians and allied health practitioners who have not been vaccinated or do not have an approved medical exemption are considered non-compliant effective Oct. 21, 2020 at 12:00 midnight and will be placed on administrative suspension.

A link to the Virtua flu vaccination schedule can be found under "Additional Resources" [here](#).

Clinicians not vaccinated at one of Virtua's flu clinics or by a Virtua flu extender **MUST** email proof of vaccination to flu@virtua.org. The information listed below must be included on your proof of vaccination to be considered acceptable documentation.

- Employee Name
- Employee ID number (begins with a 9 on your Virtua badge)
- Date of vaccination
- Vaccine Lot Number
- Vaccine Expiration Date
- Administered in Left/Right Arm
- Who administered the vaccine
- Where was the vaccine administered

Egg Allergies: If you have egg allergies, Virtua will offer the Flu Blok (an egg-free) vaccine again this year. Please email flu@virtua.org for details on how to receive the egg-free vaccine.

Exemption forms: If you are in need of a medical exemption form, please email flu@virtua.org. All completed medical exemption forms must be emailed by Oct. 1, 2020 for approval. In accordance with NJ State Law, religious exemptions will not be available for colleagues who interact with patients, visitors, students, or clients at any Virtua patient care facility.

Flu Vaccination proof missing any of the information listed above or medical exemption forms that are incomplete and missing information will not be accepted.

If you have any questions related to Virtua's flu program, please call **856-761-3900, option 2**, and follow the prompts.

Virtua Health Initiates "COVID-19 Support Group for Diagnosed Patients"

A team of social workers at Virtua Health have founded a support group for persons who have recovered, or are currently experiencing COVID-19. The group, which will meet virtually through Zoom, will hold its first meeting on Thursday, Sept. 3 from 12:00 noon to 1 p.m. The group is expected to meet every other Thursday at the same time, thereafter.

Each support group session will be capped at 12 participants to begin. If you or a loved one has been, or is currently diagnosed with COVID-19, they may register by emailing ACSupport@virtua.org. Upcoming COVID-19 Support Group meeting dates include **Sept. 3 and 17, Oct. 1, 15, and 29**.

Travel Advisory Update

On **Aug. 24**, the State of New Jersey updated its 14-day quarantine travel advisory. Guam was added to the list. Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Maryland, and Montana were removed from the list. In total, 31 states and U.S. jurisdictions meet the travel advisory criteria. Click [here](#) to view the complete list and additional details.

Virtua colleagues traveling to those states or traveling internationally are required to call the colleague hotline at 609-444-2828 upon return for guidance and return-to-work instructions. Colleagues who traveled to or from these areas, provided they are not exhibiting symptoms, will return to work. Should screening indicate that a 14-day period of self-monitoring is required before returning to work, colleagues may 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.

Colleague travel to one of the 31 states and U.S. jurisdictions is strongly discouraged so as to ensure the health and safety of you, your family, your fellow colleagues, and patients.

2020 Broad Street Run

Are you or any of your Virtua colleagues participating in this year's "virtual" Broad Street Run? If so, let us know!

The Broad Street Run, which normally occurs in May, was postponed this year due to COVID-19 concerns. However, with the pandemic still impacting social gatherings, the organizers have changed the format. This means that anyone who was registered for May run were automatically enrolled for the virtual 10K, which begins on Sept. 12. Runners have until Sept. 28 to complete their 10 miles. Details are found on the [Broad Street Run](#) website.

We are interested to know the level of participation among Virtua colleagues because this year, as part of Virtua's cardiac advertising campaign, we will be a sponsor of the event. We'd love to hear from you and know how you will be accepting the challenge. [Send us a blurb or a picture](#) demonstrating your commitment, so we can share among Virtua's social media channels.