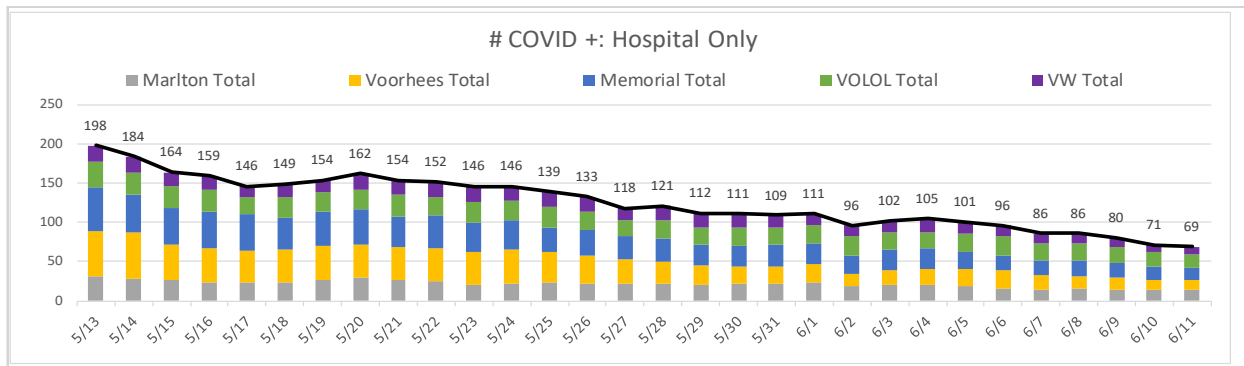
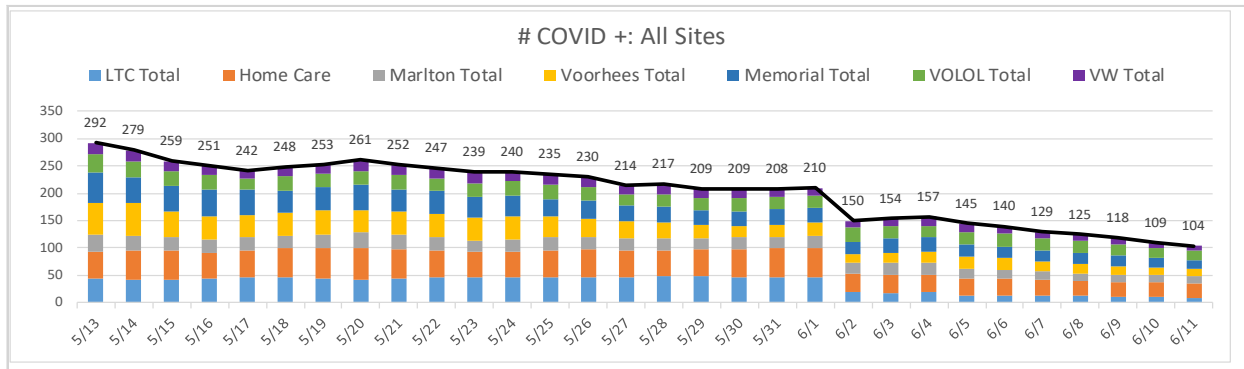


CLINICIAN UPDATE

JUNE 11, 2020

By the Numbers

The following chart reflects the latest figures for Virtua-site cases of COVID-19.



Fast Facts

- Based on NJHA data on tests returned from June, the statewide test positivity rate is 3.4 percent.
- Currently, the rate of transmission in the state of New Jersey is 0.64
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 904 deaths, as of 1 p.m. today. The total number of cases are as follows:

- Burlington County 4,832
- Camden County 6,938
- Gloucester County 2,367

Emergency Rule Issued on Naloxone

The New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety/Division of Consumer Affairs has issued an [emergency rule](#) requiring co-prescription of the opioid antidote naloxone. Practitioners are now required to co-prescribe naloxone to patients when continuously prescribing controlled, dangerous substances for management of chronic pain under the following conditions:

- If the patient has one or more prescriptions totaling 90 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) or more per day; or
- If the patient is concurrently obtaining an opioid and a benzodiazepine

In addition, the practitioner is required to document the co-prescribing in the patient record.

This rule took effect on May 21, 2020, and will remain in effect for the duration of the state of emergency and public health emergency. The purpose of the emergency rule is to increase the availability of naloxone and reduce the risk of overdose death during the COVID-19 emergency.

Ensuring Safety When Providing and Seeking Care

As our government continues to reopen the state and we continue to reactivate elective surgeries and procedures throughout our health system, Virtua is committed to warmly welcoming back those seeking care while keeping a clean and safe environment for everyone.

We have carefully designed enhanced precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible, and have created signage and decals to express the importance of following these precautions in our facilities. These include maintaining a safe distance of 6 feet apart, wearing masks, and reapplying hand sanitizer.

While these signs and decals are important in ensuring everyone's safety, it's important to express and explain to our patients from the context of safety. We never want our signs and protocols to feel paternal, or like we are "yelling" at our customers. Remember, they do have choices and the experience we create matters. Take extra time and care to ask patients how they have been. Coming into the health care setting is an anxiety-producing step for many. Your reassuring words and actions will make a big difference.

All the signs, decals, and talking points to help you engage with our patients and guests are available on the Brand Hub on the VINE. Click on [COVID-19](#).

Don't' forget PPE. As we continue to navigate through this new environment, it is imperative that our colleagues continue to properly don and doff personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times to ensure the appropriate level of protection. As tempting as it can be, please do not let your guard down. We must continue to follow our PPE policies as they have been recommended and vetted by Infection Control experts, and expect that all of our colleagues serve as good role models. To review our policies and processes regarding PPE, visit the [Coronavirus Updates homepage](#) on the VINE under "Information to Know." Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that our patients, guests, and fellow colleagues stay safe.

White Coats for Black Lives

On June 5, Virtua colleagues participated in a region-wide moment of reflection and remembrance called White Coats for Black Lives. Colleagues gathered outside Virtua's hospitals and other care locations to consider how racial injustice and inequity affect our neighborhoods and our nation. Virtua posted a [video](#) of colleagues supporting the movement on the [Virtua Health Facebook page](#) and the

[Virtua Colleagues Facebook page](#). Additionally, a number of media outlets below covered the region-wide events. Click on the following hyperlinks to view and read the

- [6abc](#)
- [NBC10](#)
- [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- [Philadelphia Business Journal](#)
- [PhillyVoice](#)

Virtua Physician Co-authors OpEd

Virtua hospitalist Azmatullah Hussaini, MD, who also serves as physician advisor for commercial accounts, co-authored an editorial that appeared in Sunday's *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In the article, titled "[Even in This Time of Protest and Unrest, Wearing a Mask is Essential](#)," Dr. Hussaini and his co-authors voiced concern over the potential for a second wave of COVID-19 that could occur from lack of social distancing, as well as from fatigue and aversion to mask wearing. The writers urge mandatory mask policies to protect the most vulnerable.

NJ to Recruit and Train Contact Tracers

NJHA reported that the State of New Jersey [will be recruiting 1,600 contact tracers](#) this month. These individuals will be trained by the Rutgers School of Public Health and local health departments. Gov. Murphy, who signed an executive order directing the use of the CommCare platform, outlined the four pillars of the contact tracing program:

- **Consent:** The tracers will only contact those whose names were provided by someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- **Transparency:** Tracers will be clear about how contact information will be used, only asking for the names and phone numbers of those they to contact.
- **Security:** Tracers will be trained to prevent leaks of personal information. Additionally, the CommCare platform offers encryption and security functions that will provide an additional level of confidence.
- **Limits:** Tracers will know the limits of what they need to do their jobs, and the limits of how that information will be used.