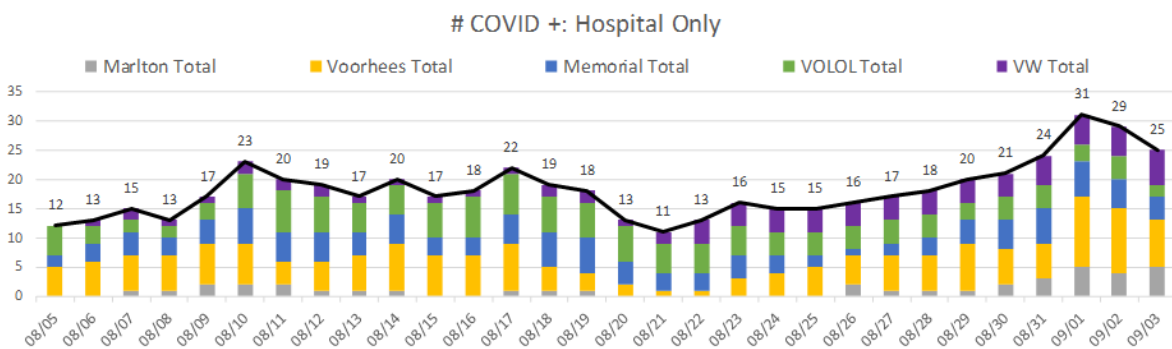
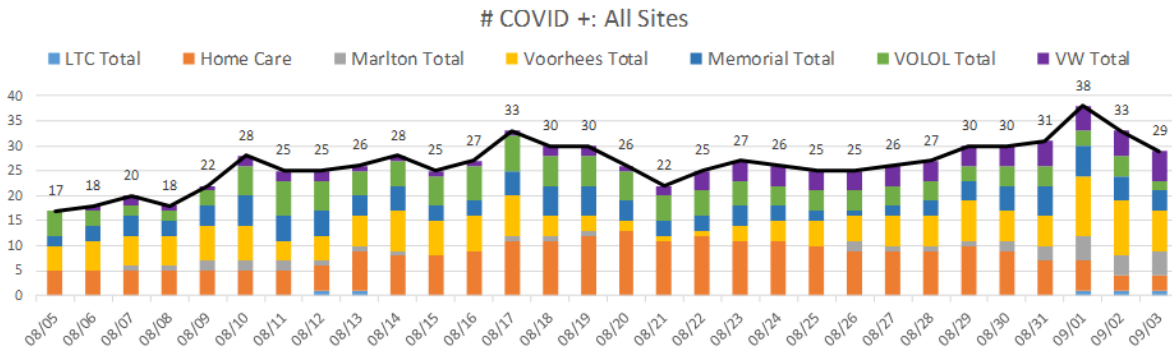


Clinician Update

September 3, 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 is once again trending up and is currently at 0.99.
- Based on data from Aug. 29, the spot positivity rate for New Jersey has risen to 2.14, driven mostly by data from our region. South Jersey continues to have the highest percent rate at 2.74 percent, whereas it is 1.94 percent in North Jersey and 1.95 percent in Central Jersey.
- There has been one more case of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome reported in the state, for a total of 57 cases, with no fatalities.
- Locally, in the tri-county area, there have been a total of 1,195 confirmed deaths, as of 1 p.m. today. The state also reports “probable” deaths from COVID-19, with figures shared separately on the [state dashboard](#). For the three counties, probable deaths would account for an additional 98 fatalities.
- The total number of cases are as follows:
 - Burlington County 6,499
 - Camden County 9,237
 - Gloucester County 3,731

The Importance of Receiving a Flu Vaccine

Virtua's mandatory Flu Vaccination Program kicked off on **Aug. 31** and **Sept. 1** at Virtua Voorhees Hospital, where 947 colleagues received flu vaccinations.

Click [here](#) to view a video featuring Dr. Reg Blaber, executive vice president and chief clinical officer, who stresses the importance of receiving a flu vaccination.

In the video, Dr. Blaber says, "There's a great deal of uncertainty regarding this year's flu season on top of a global pandemic. But there is one thing for sure — there is no better time than now to get vaccinated and protect yourself against the flu. When working in our hospitals, it's even more crucial to stay healthy so that we can safely care for our patients, especially those diagnosed with COVID-19."

The deadline to receive the vaccine is 11:59 p.m. on **Tuesday, Oct. 20**. The deadline to present a medical or religious exemption form for approval is **Thursday, Oct. 1**. In accordance with New Jersey State Law, religious exemptions will not be available for colleagues who interact with patients, visitors, students, or clients at a Virtua patient care facility. Effective **Wednesday, Oct. 21**, at 12:01 a.m., colleagues who have not been vaccinated or did not present an approved exemption form are considered non-compliant.

Please view the upcoming dates and locations to receive your flu vaccinations below. Please note that Virtua Medical Group colleagues will be directed to receive their flu shots from designated practice extenders. Corporate colleagues who are working offsite will be directed to receive their flu shots at their primary care practice or a CVS MinuteClinic, where colleagues with Virtua medical coverage can obtain flu vaccinations at no cost.

Friday, Sept. 4, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

[Virtua Marlton Hospital](#)

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

[Virtua Memorial Hospital](#)

Friday, Sept. 11, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

[Virtua Health and Wellness Center – Berlin](#)

Monday, Sept. 14, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

[Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital](#)

Thursday, Sept. 17, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

[Virtua Willingboro Hospital](#)

For the complete schedule, visit the [Colleague Flu Information](#) button on the VINE.

Questions are welcome. Email flu@virtua.org or call 856-761-3900, option 2.

Virtua's MAT Program Available

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented stress and anxiety to our community. Many of our patients have unfortunately turned to substance abuse as a coping mechanism. This recent article from [Forbes](#) explores how our national focus has turned nearly entirely to the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving many opioid users without resources and hope, even here in South Jersey.

In the setting of this crisis, Virtua is pleased to announce the start of its Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program for Opioid Use Disorder. Please take a few minutes to become familiar with [this flyer](#) that outlines the program, its approach, and referral information.

Clinicians should consider this program for any patients who screen positive for opioid abuse. The goal is to develop a smooth and seamless transition for our patients.

For more information or questions, contact Dr. Andy Cohen, Medical Director for Virtua Physician Partners (acohen@virtua.org), Dr. Jay Case, Program Director for Virtua Behavioral Health Services (jcase@virtua.org), or Russ Micoli, Vice President for Behavioral Health Services (rmicoli@virtua.org). Virtual education and information sessions can be arranged for your practice.

New Changes Are Coming to MyChart

On **Thursday, Sept. 10**, Virtua's MyChart will debut a new homepage layout and new functions. These include the following:

- *Shortcuts* will link to the patient's four most commonly used functions.
- *Health Feed* will show actionable health updates, such as scheduling a flu shot or a routine exam or screening.
- *Menu* will provide access to all available MyChart activities in one location.

Additionally, Epic has added more details on how patients can link their MyChart accounts across multiple providers.

Click [here](#) for additional information and sample images of MyChart's new changes.

Log onto MyChart on **Thursday, Sept. 10** to see the new layout for yourself and help share these changes with our patients.

Tune in to a Special Virtual Performance from Musicians on Call

For the past 11 years, Musicians on Call has delivered the healing power of music to patients at their bedside at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital.

In light of the pandemic, the program was paused, but we are happy to that share that Musicians on Call will host a virtual performance on **Thursday, Sept. 10** at 2 p.m. for patients at its member hospitals in the Philadelphia region. The hospitals include Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes and, for the first time, all Virtua facilities.

We invite our hospital colleagues to share this link with patients and fellow colleagues. The 30-minute show will be broadcast live on YouTube. Click [here](#) to view the flyer for more details. On **Thursday, Sept. 10**, click on this link <https://youtu.be/jQydyJmRI7U> to view the virtual musical performance.

Pediatric Mobile Services Administers More than 500 Blood Lead Level Screenings

In January 2019, the Virtua Pediatric Mobile Services Program started providing free blood lead level screenings to children 6 months old to 6 years old living in underserved communities in Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties. To date, the team has screened more than 500 children and has referred 16 percent of those patients for additional testing due to elevated lead levels.

Lead is extremely toxic and harmful to children, especially those under 6 years old. Elevated lead levels can cause a multitude of issues, including behavioral concerns, developmental delays, neurological impairment, and ADD/ADHD. Lead can be found in paint, soil, water, toys, make-up, dishes, and jewelry.

For more information on lead poisoning, please click [here](#). To learn more about the Virtua Pediatric Mobile Services Program and to view a calendar of screening dates and site visits, click [here](#).

Virtua Fitness and Wellness Services Changes

The fitness and wellness industries have encountered sustained disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing major franchises and independently owned businesses alike to discontinue operations. Unfortunately, Virtua is not immune to these hardships, and — following five months of suspended service, on top of significant and unsustainable annual financial challenges — has decided to permanently close its fitness center in Moorestown as well as Lourdes Wellness Services, located in Collingswood. The impacted Lourdes programs include acupuncture, therapeutic massage, exercise classes, and spiritual direction.

This is a disappointing outcome, as we greatly enjoyed providing the community with opportunities to pursue their individual fitness and wellness goals. However, as a not-for-profit health system, Virtua has an obligation to be a good steward of its resources and must prioritize the vital medical and surgical services it provides to the community. Virtua will continue to address community health improvement initiatives, focusing on Food Access.

Because it does not carry the same operational costs, the Virtua William G. Rohrer Fitness Center – Voorhees is preparing to reopen soon, in accordance with state regulations and CDC and Virtua Infection Control standards. Patrons of the Moorestown center are encouraged to transfer their memberships; refunds/cancellations are also available.

In addition, there are plans to continue seated chair massage therapy for Virtua employee functions and other community partner events.

Gift cards and prepaid services for Lourdes Wellness Services may be refunded by contacting wellness@virtua.org with your name, address, and gift card number or class name.

Should you have any questions, please contact April Schetler at aschetler@virtua.org.

Travel Advisory Update

On **Sept. 1**, the State of New Jersey updated its 14-day quarantine travel advisory. Alaska and Montana were re-added to the list. In total, 33 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 33 states and U.S. jurisdictions is strongly discouraged to ensure the health and safety of you, your family, your fellow colleagues, and patients.

Brand Hub: Virtua Branded Face Masks

The Virtua Health Logo Shop, the one-stop shop for branded apparel items and promotional products for colleagues, will soon add Virtua-branded face masks to its inventory. Please note that Virtua branded face masks are not intended for the clinical setting and that all aspects of Virtua's masking policy remain in effect.

Additional items available for purchase include lab coats, scrubs, shirts, jackets, bags, hats, pens, and tablecloths. Twenty percent of every sale is donated to Virtua's Philanthropy Department to support projects like the Nurses Scholarship Fund.

Click [here](#) to visit the Virtua Health Logo Shop.