

Coronavirus Update

Issue 8 — Wednesday, March 18

Updated Visitation Policy

As the situation evolves around the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to revise our policies based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health.

For the health and safety of our patients and their families as well as our staff and the communities we serve, Virtua Health has implemented a **no visitation/no-access policy for all inpatient and outpatient locations, including the Emergency Department**, with limited exceptions for the following:

- Labor and Delivery
 - One visitor may accompany laboring woman
 - Must be same visitor throughout hospital stay
- High Risk Obstetrics
 - One designated visitor
 - Must be same visitor throughout hospital stay
- Mother/Baby Unit
 - One designated visitor — the same individual from Labor and Delivery
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit/ Special Care Nursery
 - 2 visitors — mom and care partner
 - Must always be same two individuals
- Pediatric Unit
 - 2 visitors — mom and care partner
 - Must always be same two individuals
- Those serving as caregivers for patients undergoing same-day surgeries and procedures
- Terminally-ill patients

The limited exception visitors must wash or sanitize hands prior to entering patient care areas. Anyone coughing or showing other signs of illness will be asked to kindly leave and visit remotely. You can access the updated Visitor Guidelines flyer and Visitor Guidelines Poster in both English and Spanish on the VINE.

For the latest novel coronavirus related information, visit: virtua.org/coronavirus.

Update to Emergency Medical Services Classes

Out of an abundance of caution to help safeguard our health care providers, and in line with the American Heart Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the New Jersey Office of Emergency Medical Services, Virtua has made the decision to **cancel all CPR, ACLS, PALS, and NRP classes effective immediately and until further notice**.

With guidance from the regulatory bodies, Virtua has authorized a 60-day grace period on expired certifications. Additional information will be provided when course registrations resume.

Flower Delivery Policy

In order to reduce the risk of exposure, and in an effort to minimize the amount of people entering our facilities, Virtua is no longer accepting deliveries of flowers, gift baskets, or the like.

Here for Good Podcast

Congressman Donald Norcross sat down with Virtua leaders to discuss the impact of the coronavirus pandemic: “Nothing will ever be the same, but we learn from it.” Listen to his conversation on the Here For Good podcast regarding issues and challenges in health care, our vulnerable populations, government considerations and the supply chain.

<https://www.virtua.org/podcast>



Here for Good in Action

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, a local man named Thomas brought his bagpipes to Virtua's long-term care center in Berlin. Understanding the necessary visitor restrictions, he circled the building for a roving, outdoor concert for the residents and patients inside, including his very proud mother. You can check out the video [here](#). That's [#HereForGood](#).



On behalf of the Virtua Health Board of Trustees

Dear Colleagues,

At the virtual Virtua Health Board of Trustees meeting, the Board was updated on the organization's activities surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak and the staff's continuous efforts to assure the safety of our patients, visitors, colleagues and communities.

I wanted to share that the Board acknowledges the remarkable teamwork and communication that is being exhibited during these unprecedented times of uncertainty.

Our sincere thanks to the entire Virtua Health family for partnering with one another and embracing Virtua's culture of caring and service delivery in which we can be proud. The Board of Trustees is truly grateful for all you have done and continue to do during these trying times.

Sincerely,

David Kindlick
Chair
Virtua Health Board of Trustees

If you have traveled to any country outside of the United States, or have questions related to the coronavirus as it pertains to Virtua Health, please call 609-444-2828.

Colleagues are also invited to email their questions to virtuainfo@virtua.org for potential inclusion in FAQs sections and topics in future issues of *Coronavirus Update*.