

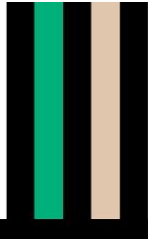


Winnebago County

Health Department

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Health  
ALERT



## Influenza Surveillance Season to Begin October 3, 2021 September 30, 2021

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) is notifying our health care partners that the influenza reporting and surveillance season is set to begin October 3, 2021, in Winnebago County. This annual surveillance is a part of the Rock River Region's mutually adopted Infection Control Practices for Influenza.

### Influenza Testing

- WCHD is recommending our health care partners to test their symptomatic patients for both influenza and COVID-19.
- Some of the [symptoms of flu and COVID-19](#) are similar, making it hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone.
- **Common symptoms** that COVID-19 and flu share include:
  - Fever or feeling feverish/having chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue (tiredness)
  - Sore throat
  - Runny or stuffy nose
  - Muscle pain or body aches
  - Headache
  - Vomiting and diarrhea
  - Change in or loss of taste or smell, although this is more frequent with COVID-19.
- Diagnostic testing can help determine if a patient is sick with flu, COVID-19, or another respiratory infection.

To **report a positive case of influenza**, WCHD is providing an on-line link to report each individual case. The reporting link is <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=CPE9FJNT8MP8FFP9>.

For **long term/congregate care facilities**, influenza outbreaks are reportable to WCHD. An outbreak is defined as

- Two or more cases of Influenza-like illness (ILI) occurring within 72 hours among residents in a unit of the facility
- At least one of the ill residents having laboratory-confirmed influenza (i.e. RT-PCR, viral culture or rapid test)

To report an influenza outbreak in long term/congregate care facility, please use the on-line reporting link <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=EN98P998WKTNERWK>.

**Should you have any questions regarding influenza surveillance or reporting, please contact the WCHD's Communicable Disease Program directly at 815-720-4050.**

If you are interested in receiving future WCHD Health Alerts directly to your email inbox, please register here <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=K3AKA7PJ9Y>.

