

# Electronic Reporting of Communicable Diseases

## What's The Issue?

In Winnebago County, positive laboratory tests for reportable communicable diseases (CD) are submitted to WCHD via fax machine which can delay after-hours and weekend reporting of communicable diseases.

## Why It's Important

- If Winnebago County Health Department had a new reporting system for communicable diseases, then CD Staff would not be reliant on older technology, a fax machine.
- If a new reporting system was available to WCHD CD Staff on a 24 hour basis, then the reporting timeframe of communicable diseases would decrease in the community.
- If the reporting time of CDs was reduced, then control measures and prevention messages can be provided sooner to individuals/health care community to reduce the spread of disease.

## What We Did

- Reviewed possible electronic avenues for reporting.
- Reached out to Infection Control Partners to determine capabilities for electronic reporting.
- Established CD reporting Drop Box by working with Winnebago County IT Department.
- Created short-term alternative in the form of secure email until Drop Box could be fully implemented by partner organizations.

## Lessons Learned

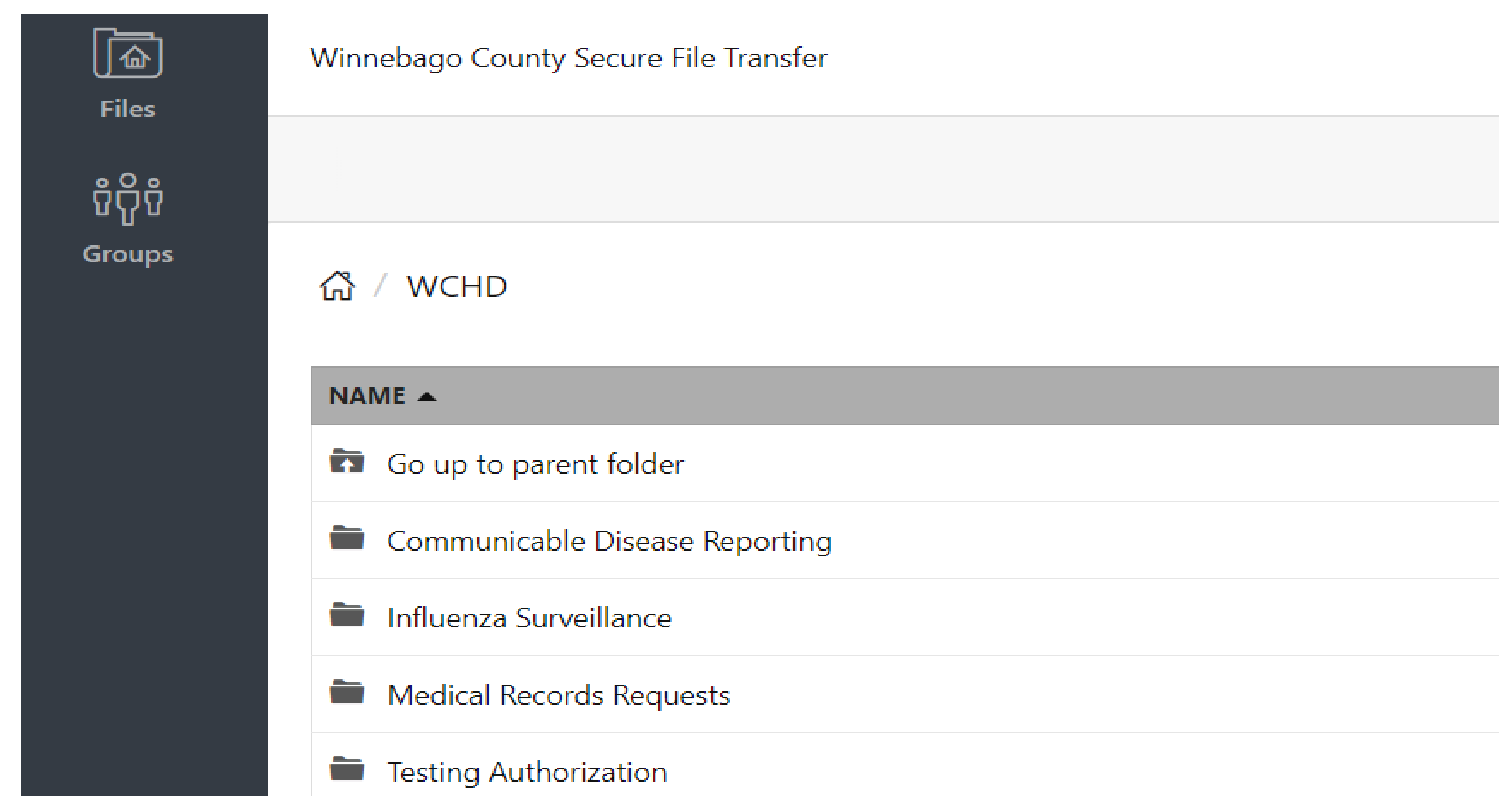
- Challenges in approval process from all partners' organization IT perspective.
- Challenges in approval process of HIPPA Business Associate Agreement from a legal perspective of partner organizations.
- Need for short term alternative for electronic reporting.

## Results

- Confirmed that Infection Control Partners/Reporting Laboratories are willing to use electronic reporting process to improve submission of data.
- Implemented a secure email reporting process with partners as a short-term solution to reporting.
- Developed a timeline for implementing an electronic drop-box.
- Completed WCHD Staff access testing to the electronic drop-box.

## Team Members

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Caption: Drop-box screen shot identifying multiple reporting folders