

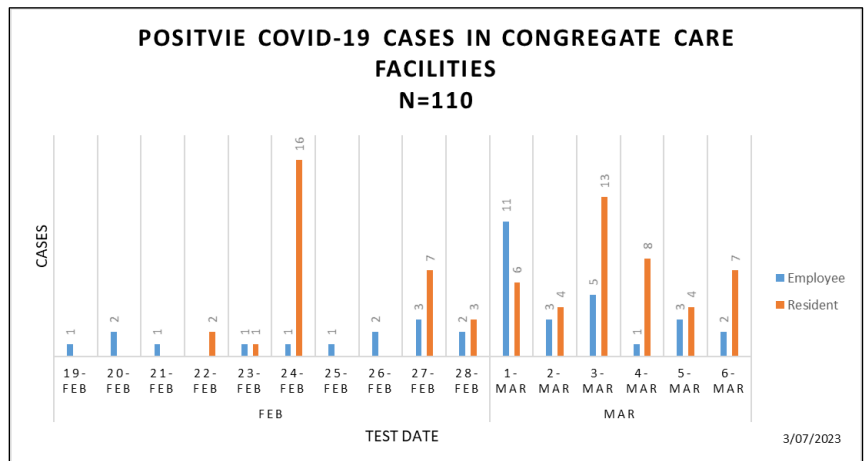
**COVID-19 Cases Rise in Congregate Care Facilities
 March 7, 2023**

The Winnebago County Health Department has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases from Congregate Care (CC) and Long Term Care (LTC) providers in Winnebago County from February 19 through March 7, 2023. These COVID-19 cases from CC and LTC represent 25% of total COVID-19 cases reported in Winnebago County. Currently, there are 13 facilities experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19.

CC and LTC facilities should increase and tighten infection control practices to prevent respiratory virus transmission.

WCHD Asks All CC and LTC Providers To:

- Inform staff/residents/and visitors with signage indicating outbreak status.
- Test symptomatic residents/staff regardless of vaccination status
- Recommend mask wearing in facility during an outbreak for staff, residents, and visitors
- Increase ventilation in the facility
- Review IDPH’s November 4, 2022 [COVID-19 Guidance](#)



Remind Residents/Visitors/Staff To:

- STAY up to date with [COVID-19 vaccines including boosters](#)
- PRACTICE strict hand hygiene
- COVER coughs and sneezes
- CLEAN and disinfect surfaces
- STAY home if you are a Staff/Visitor who is sick

Please contact WCHD’s Communicable Disease Program at 815-720-4050 to report an outbreak or with any questions.

Resource:

Illinois Department of Public Health Long Term Care Guidance - <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/long-term-care.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

