

# Long Term Care Facilities

COVID-19

Working with Public Health

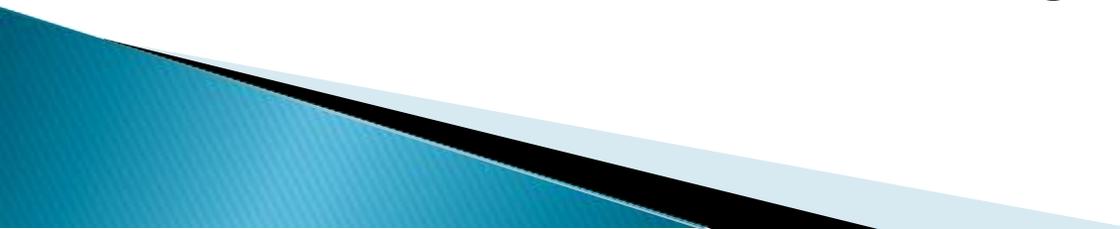
# Reporting

- ▶ Positive COVID-19 cases are reported to the Local Health Department (LHD) where the person resides through a system called “WEDSS”
  - ▶ Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System
  - ▶ Secure and confidential
  - ▶ Used for reporting of all communicable diseases
  - ▶ One case of COVID-19 is considered an outbreak in LTC facilities (vulnerable population)
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# Health Department Response

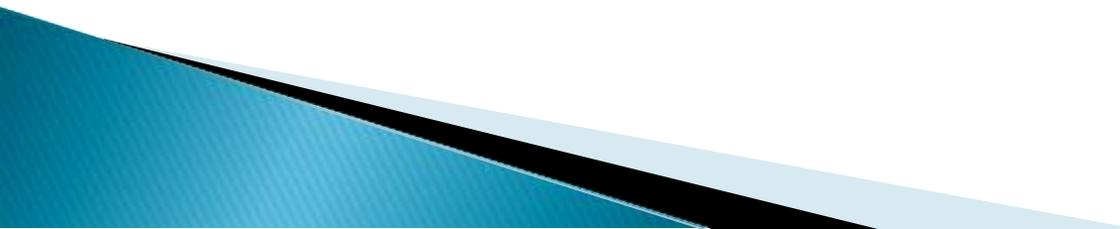
- ▶ The Local Health Department contacts the person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (if possible) and the facility
  - ▶ They will:
    - Work with the LTC facility in assisting them in response
    - Work with families/guardians as appropriate
    - Inform the LTC facility about what they need to do for isolation and quarantine
    - Answer your questions and obtain needed resources
    - Work with what staff should do
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# Testing

- ▶ The Local Health Department will assist you with testing
  - ▶ They will recommend who should be tested
  - ▶ It can be done through a provider or a local or National Guard testing site
  - ▶ Jefferson County has an agreement with our local hospital for
    - Drive-thru testing or
    - Strike Team
  - ▶ People can refuse testing
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# Department of Health Services

- ▶ Local health departments can confer with the State Department of Health Services (DHS) for questions regarding testing, testing frequency or management of the outbreak
- ▶ DHS can provide additional resources and support
- ▶ LHD or DHS may conduct an ICAR assessment to assist the LTC facility in best infection control practices
- ▶ Infection **C**ontrol **A**ssessment and **R**esponse Tool

- This is how Jefferson County Health Department responds
  - No two Health Departments are the same or have the same capacity to respond
  - Jefferson County has 160+ LTC facilities
  - Ability to respond may be dependent on staffing or number of cases
  - Jefferson County Health Department nurse consultant
  - Jefferson County also works with Human Services to assure that LTC facilities feel supported
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- ▶ Public Health will assist with isolation and quarantine but it is essential that the LTC facility have a plan
  - ▶ Limited resources for isolation/quarantine
  - ▶ LTC facility should make sure that staff are trained on how to care for someone with COVID-19 and how to use PPE
  - ▶ Obtaining PPE is the LTC facility's responsibility but Public Health may be able to obtain a supply from Emergency Management
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# Planning

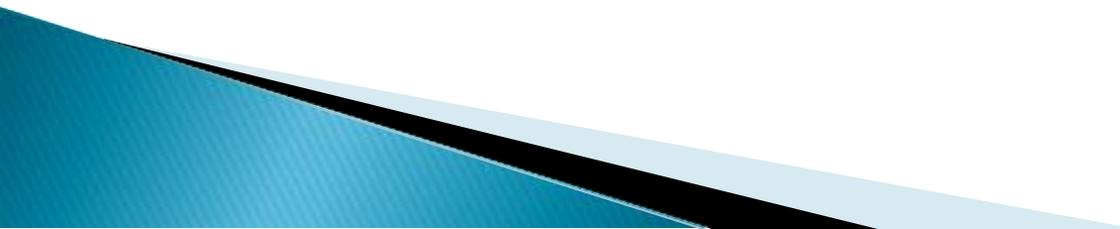
Know your local and state health department contacts

Ensure employee and resident roster is updated and readily available at all times

Ensure your patient records are up-to-date in case of a need to hospitalize or move to a quarantine facility

Assign a person who is responsible for communicating with public health

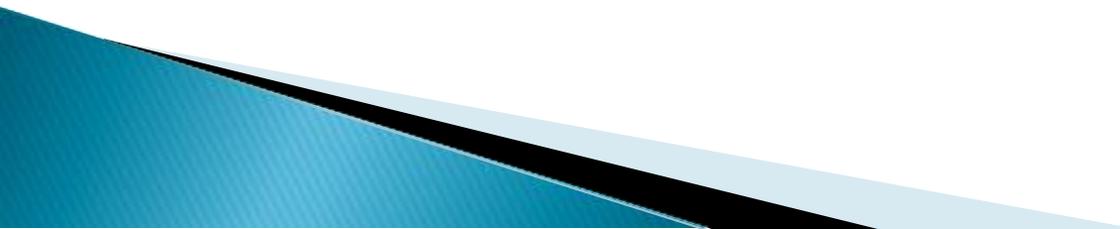
Have a communication plan for staff/residents/families



# Summary

- ▶ All COVID-19 test results are reported to the Local Health Department where case resides
  - ▶ Public Health will assist with questions, resources, isolation/quarantine guidance
  - ▶ Public Health will assist with testing
  - ▶ Facilities should have a plan for both
  - ▶ Communication plan should be in place
  - ▶ Become familiar with guidance and know it may be updated
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# Summary

- ▶ Plan for staffing issues
  - ▶ Rumor control
  - ▶ Have a plan for working with families, staff and the public
  - ▶ Have a liaison with the Local Health Department and make sure they are available
  - ▶ Plan for PPE needs
  - ▶ Have a transportation plan for a positive case
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# Resources

- ▶ South Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC)
  - ▶ All regions have a “HERC” (PH, EMS, EM, Hospitals, LTC)
  - ▶ Information and planning meetings
  - ▶ Planning and response exercises
  - ▶ Get to know the resources before they are needed
  - ▶ DHS, CDC, CMS
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