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WCHS Upgrades Respiratory Testing Capabilities

Winnebago, NE – The Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System is excited to announce they have expanded their respiratory illness testing and are now using Biofire tests to provide rapid results to the community.

These tests are an asset to communities like Winnebago because of their extensive illness detection capabilities, and because of the short turnaround time for the tests. Previously, there have been occasions where patients waited up to 2 hours to get the results of a simple respiratory panel. Turnaround times for the Biofire panels will be substantially faster. These tests can detect Adenovirus, seasonal Coronavirus, Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, Metapneumovirus, Rhinovirus/Enterovirus, Influenza A and B, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus. Patients and relatives can expect comprehensive and rapid detection, a reduction in unnecessary treatments, and enhanced infection control within the community.

“We are thrilled to have this resource available for our community,” expressed Mindy Johnson, Laboratory Manager. “This will not only be far simpler and more efficient for our employees to work with – it will enhance patient experience tenfold. No one wants to sit at the doctor for two hours waiting for test results, especially when they aren’t feeling well. These tests are producing results nearly 75% faster than their predecessor, which was a worthy investment for both relatives and employees.”

This is one of many steps WCHS is taking this year to enhance the experience of their patients and relatives. This new testing system is vital as WCHS works to completely revamp and revitalize the care that’s given to the community.

“WCHS has a vision to lead the nation in health for Indigenous people,” says Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ganesh Kini, “Through self-determined actions, like investing in these Biofire panels, we are striving to provide the innovative and compassionate care we have promised Winnebago. This cutting-edge technology was just released in April of 2023, and having the most advanced technology is really an investment in the community.”

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The Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System (WCHS) is dedicated to creating and sustaining a healthy community in Winnebago and all the populations we serve. Our organization provides an integrated approach to medicine by offering care services that are compassionate, innovative, and



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culturally-centered. Our goal is to lead the nation in health for indigenous people by challenging the culture of healthcare for the 10,000 Native Americans who live on the Winnebago Reservation and in the surrounding region. The rural healthcare services we provide include renowned acute care hospital services, a robust primary care clinic, and impressive prevention programs designed to educate, encourage, and support the mental, environmental, social, and physical wellness needs of the Winnebago community. Visit www.wchs.health to learn more.

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