



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Jan. 19, 2021

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 15,440

Total deaths in Scott County: 163

Rock Island County – 89 new cases since Sunday; total of 11,747 (57 Monday and 32 Tuesday)

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 29

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 284

Today's call

A video recording of today's media briefing can be found at

<https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/covid19/news>

Vaccine supply low in Iowa at this point

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

Today we would like to give you an update on our immunization of Phase 1A healthcare workers in Scott County. Scott County Health Department, at our clinic location, and our partners — Genesis, UnityPoint Health Trinity, and Community Health Care — at their facilities, have administered more than 7,000 doses of vaccine in Scott County to date. This number includes both first and second doses.

For the past three weeks, our department has contacted health care provider groups and scheduled appointments for their staff. Through five clinic days, we have vaccinated workers in primary care, urgent care, home health, dental, physical/occupational/speech therapy, and other providers. We have appointments scheduled this week for other disciplines and specialties. This clinic model will likely be used for subsequent phases. The state of Iowa expects to move the state as a whole into Phase 1B no later than February 1.

We are extremely grateful for the support of our healthcare partners in the planning and staffing of these clinics.

Iowa's Infectious Disease Advisory Council (IDAC) released its guidance for Phase 1B last week. Persons 75 years of age and older were included, due to the high number of deaths in this age group. Also included were persons vulnerable to the risk of exposure of spread of COVID-19 based on where they live or work. Many of these persons live in group settings where their

needs are met by workers moving room to room or work where settings don't allow them to social distance appropriately. When there is not enough vaccine for all, areas where the greatest risk of exposure to and risk of spreading COVID-19 exist must be targeted.

We have received many questions about persons under the age of 75 with existing health conditions. Although the CDC has recommended immunizing those 65 and older with serious health conditions, at this time these persons are not included in Phase 1B in Iowa. This decision was made by IDAC as a result of the extremely limited supply of vaccine allocated to Iowa. We expect that persons with underlying health conditions will be identified in a later priority group after Phase 1B. Please continue to protect yourself by heeding the advice we have provided: social distance, wear a face mask, and stay away from activities where the risk of exposure is high.

We also receive many inquiries daily from other community members asking when their time to be vaccinated will come. Although we are encouraged by their willingness to participate, our response almost always is that we cannot provide an estimate. The reason, again, is limited vaccine supply. The Scott County Health Department weekly allotment has most recently been 800 doses. With our clinic model, we can vaccinate hundreds of people a day – but not until we have more vaccine. With over 170,000 people in our county, 800 doses per week makes for very slow progress.

With that in mind, we ask that you continue to be patient with us as we administer the vaccine we are allotted.

RICHD grateful for partners in herculean vaccination effort

Remarks from Janet Hill, chief operating officer, Rock Island County Health Department

As we speak, Rock Island County Health Department staff members are finishing up giving out the last of our 1,000 doses of vaccine allotted to us for this week. This is a herculean task, and we thank our staff for their stamina and our residents for their patience. There is nothing easy about this vaccination process – from the distribution from the federal government, to the state governments, to the county health departments and finally into your arms. And this vaccine requires two doses – so the process must be repeated.

Thankfully, the health department is not doing this alone.

Right now, healthcare workers can make appointments for clinics at Jewel-Osco online at www.albertsons.com/covidclinic. Patients will be asked to show proof of employment, including a work badge, paystub, medical license (if applicable) or letter on the employer's letterhead. Jewel-Osco is expected to move to Phase 1B next week.

The pharmacy has three locations in Rock Island County:

- 2010 1st St. A, Moline

- 107 Avenue of the Cities, East Moline
- 1312 John Deere Expressway, Silvis

The State of Illinois also will announce other partnerships with pharmacies, including CVS and Walgreens, soon. However, neither of those pharmacy chains are able to take appointments now. Eventually, there will be enough vaccine in our community to get your vaccine in your healthcare provider's office. We are a long way from that point. We know we've asked for your patience a lot over the last 10 months. I'm asking for it again. Everyone wants the vaccine as soon as possible, and public health and our partners are working at our full capacity to get it to you as soon as possible.

We welcome Tom Bowman, CEO of Community Health Care in the Quad-Cities, to talk with us about how his organization is helping vaccinate healthcare in Rock Island County. Soon CHC will be able to move to Phase 1B, which includes residents 65 and older and those in frontline essential jobs. Thanks for joining us here, Tom, and for everything that your team is doing to help us through this pandemic.

Community Health Care working with both health departments

Remarks from Tom Bowman, chief executive officer, Community Health Care

Community Health Care, Inc. appreciates the opportunity to partner with both Scott and Rock Island Counties in vaccine planning for COVID 19. This is a huge undertaking and we couldn't be more impressed with the work being done on both sides of the river to get vaccine out into the community.

1. Reminder that patients with COVID symptoms can still seek care/testing at CHC. They call the main number at 563.336.3000 if they have symptoms and a telehealth appointment will be made. If indicated a COVID test will be provided at one of our testing sites at either our Rock Island or Davenport locations.
2. Employee Vaccination – CHC is beginning second doses for employees and hopes to be substantially complete by the end of January.
3. Iowa Vaccine Plan – We are working with the Scott County Health Department, Unity Point Trinity and Genesis Health System to staff the community vaccine clinic. CHC has provided 5-7 team members each week to this effort and they have reported a very efficient and effective process as we have worked through tier 1A in Iowa. We will continue to direct Iowa based patients and partners to the joint operation until more vaccine is made available.
4. Illinois Vaccine Plan – Working with the Rock Island County Health Department, CHC has begun offering a vaccine clinic for the community. We have been working through Phase 1A and will begin providing doses to Phase 1B as soon as allowed. CHC will use scheduled appointment times and will be working with employers or community groups who fall into tier 1B to facilitate those appointments. The clinic is run from our Rock Island clinic, 2750 11th St., Rock Island, on Friday afternoons, Saturday and Sunday.

- a. For those 65 and older who are CHC patients, we will be messaging and doing outreach to schedule those patients into our clinics to receive their vaccine.
 - b. For those 65 and older who are not patients of CHC, we would ask you to coordinate first with your employer if still working, but if not you can email covidvaccine@chcqca.org to inquire about scheduling a time to receive vaccine.
5. All of our planning is dependent on vaccine availability and we will scale our clinics accordingly. We have done roughly 1270 vaccines total with 780 of those just this last weekend January 15-17.

More information

- www.TogetherQC.com
- coronavirus.iowa.gov
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=2>
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics?county=Rock%20Island>
- <https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/facilities/Pages/Covid19Response.aspx>
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/long-term-care-facility-outbreaks-covid-19>

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