



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 18, 2020

No confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported to either the Scott or Rock Island County health departments. However, all health providers and partners are operating with the understanding that the disease is circulating in our community.

Any positive cases would be reported to the respective state departments of public health, which then would report to the local health departments.

On Wednesday, a local health care provider reported receiving information of a positive case that was tested at one of its Iowa clinic locations. This patient was not a resident of either Scott or Rock Island counties. Therefore, the Iowa Department of Public Health is not reporting this as a Scott County case.

Again, because we believe COVID-19 is in the community, we expect that we will see positive cases and are working as to minimize the spread of this disease. Please continue to:

- Wash your hands with soap and hot water or use hand sanitizer
- If you experience symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, call your health care provider or a walk in clinic BEFORE you go to seek care
- If you have these symptoms, stay home.

**Coping with anxiety**

The spread of COVID-19 in our communities is an unprecedented event, and it often feels there are more questions than answers. We recognize these uncertain times are stressful and can cause anxiety.

We encourage all of us to:

- Stay calm and listen to the facts to help reduce your fears.
- Keep up to date on important information when needed by using trusted sources such as the CDC and Iowa and Illinois state departments of health.
- Focus on what you can do to be prepared, including being informed and taking control of efforts to control what you can, such as washing your hands and other prevention strategies

If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions such as sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others call Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Disaster Distress Helpline: 800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746. If a person is in immediate danger, call 911.

Quad Citians who believe they need help with coping are urged to call their health care provider. We also offer these resources, which are not meant to be a complete list. These are the larger providers in this area:

- Robert Young Center  
4600 3rd St., Moline  
309-779-2031
- Transitions  
2326 16th St., Moline  
309-793-4993
- Center for Youth and Family Solutions  
4703 44th St., Rock Island  
309-788-9581
- Vera French Community Mental Center  
1141 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport  
563-383-1900

### **Testing**

We recognize there continues to be questions about COVID-19 testing in the community. We feel it is important to take time and explain how the testing process works for individuals:

- If you believe you have symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), call ahead to your provider.
- Describe your symptoms.
- Your provider will use a process to determine if you need to come in to be evaluated.
- Even if you have mild symptoms, stay home.

The Scott County Health Department will not be able to report the number of Scott County residents tested for COVID-19 because the Iowa Department of Public Health does not keep a running count of tests.

The procedure is different with the Illinois Department of Public Health. As of 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, the Rock Island County Health Department has authorized 39 tests, with 20 of them reporting as negative and 19 still pending.

Quad-City health care providers are beginning to offer drive-through testing. Here is the procedure for each of the largest three health care systems:

- Genesis opened a mobile sample collection site on Wednesday and will send samples for testing of COVID-19, seasonal influenza and strep. The site, 1520 W. 53rd St., Davenport, only will collect samples of patients with Genesis provider orders at this time. Samples will not be collected from anyone without provider orders. The collection site opens at 8 a.m. daily. Patients will be notified of their results by phone with appropriate instructions.

- UnityPoint Health patients must meet current screening requirements for testing. Patients must have a referral from their primary care provider, which then must be approved by the testing provider to certify requirements. Patients then would go to a test site at one of the Express Care locations, not including the facility at the Bett Plex. Then then will be brought through a separate entrance or a nurse may test the patient from their car. Full precautions are taken, and personal protective equipment are worn at all times during interactions with patients.
- Community Health care is testing both new and current patients at four curbside care locations, Davenport, Rock Island, Moline and Clinton, Iowa. Patients must call ahead for a time. Testing could be limited to capacity on a daily basis. Call 563-336-3000.

### **Workplaces**

As we shared Tuesday, the proclamations in each county addresses restaurants, bars, public venues, and social gatherings. We recognize this does not include businesses and workplaces, where we know many of our residents spend considerable time.

There are steps individuals can take to help prevent the spread in their workplace, if it still open for business, employees are urged to stay home when they are sick. If you have symptoms of serious respiratory illness, you are recommended to stay home and not come to work until you are:

- Free of fever (100.4° F)
- Free of signs of a fever
- Free of any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).
- Notify your supervisor and stay home if you are sick.

If you are at work, determine how you can maintain social distancing:

- Maintain 6 feet between individuals
- Look at your desk or workspace set up – ensure employees aren't directly facing one another
- Continue to follow hygiene recommendations while in the workplace:
- Wash your hands with soap and hot water or hand sanitizer often
- Cover your cough with your elbow or a disposable Kleenex
- You can work with your employer to post posters from the CDC in areas around your workplace to help reinforce these messages.
- Help keep your workplace clean; ensure there is regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Make sure to follow the directions on the label.
- Watch for any additional messages that come from local or state public health or the governor in the upcoming days.

### **Vulnerable populations**

The changes in recent days have limited the contact individuals have in places such as schools and restaurants, bars, public venues, and social gatherings. However, we want to encourage those over the age of 65 AND those with underlying medical conditions to consider how they can best protect themselves if they need to go out in public for various reasons. Have conversations with your doctor on how to best protect yourself from exposure.

To better describe, underlying medical conditions that may increase serious COVID-19 risk for individuals of any age include:

- Blood disorders (e.g., sickle cell disease or on blood thinners)
- Chronic kidney disease as defined by your doctor.
- Chronic liver disease as defined by your doctor.
- Compromised immune system (immunosuppression)
- Current or recent pregnancy in the last two weeks
- Endocrine disorders such as diabetes
- Metabolic disorders
- Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
- Lung disease including asthma or COPD among others
- Neurological and neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions

### **Preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other illness**

- Wash your hands
- Avoid touching your face
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Stay away of social gatherings of more than 10 people
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects

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