



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 30, 2020

**Current COVID-19 case count**

**Scott County** – 6 new cases reported for a total of 16

**Rock Island County** – 4 new cases reported for a total of 11

**Keep Staying Home**

We once again thank the community for responding to the many requirements we have asked of them in recent weeks, said Nita Ludwig, public health administrator in Rock Island County. By and large, we have seen our community stay home, limit their interactions in public, work from home when possible, and stay home when they begin showing signs of illness.

“We must ask that you continue to hold tight and keep up the social distancing in the upcoming days and weeks,” Ludwig said. “We cannot let up now. Our ability to successfully social distance is what is going to make the difference for our community.”

We have the ability to protect both our community and ourselves. For our community, we can best protect those around us by staying home as much as possible, limiting trips out and about for only essential needs, and self-isolating at home if we begin to show signs of illness.

We can best protect ourselves by minimizing the spread of germs around us. Make sure to clean frequently touched services in your home and workspace, such as countertops and door handles. In addition to the other steps you are taking, use handwashing as your best line of defense against COVID-19.

“We know it sounds simple, but washing your hands frequently with soap and warm water or hand sanitizer is such a huge factor in preventing the virus from spreading to yourself or others,” Ludwig said.

As the weather gets warmer, we understand that you might be drawn outside. Going for a walk, hike, bike ride or run is perfectly fine, as long as you keep 6 feet between you and others you might meet along the way. Cities throughout our region are making decisions as to what outdoor facilities are open and closed. Please consult your city’s website for the most up-to-date information.

Throughout this crisis, we have talked about the response from state leaders in Illinois and Iowa might be different. Information came from Springfield that golf courses no longer are allowed to stay open. However, in Iowa golf courses are open, but you should call ahead to find out the specific rules at your course.

Now is not the time to get complacent. The best ways to prevent spread of COVID-19 include:

- Social distancing by staying at home as much as possible.
- Keeping at least 6 feet between you and anyone else
- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time and using hand sanitizer when washing your hands is not possible.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your elbow.
- Staying home when you are ill.

If you think you may need to seek healthcare, **call first**. Your provider can assess whether you need to be seen in the office or whether you can recover at home.

### **Masks**

Over the weekend, the Iowa Department of Public Health provided new guidance for homemade mask design, said Edward Rivers, director of the Scott County Health Department. The guidance encourages individuals interested in constructing masks to make masks as requested by the health care facility where you plan to donate. If the health care facility does not have a specific plan, please construct masks using the directions on [togetherqc.com](http://togetherqc.com).

The Salvation Army in the Quad Cities is collecting masks made by the guidelines on [togetherqc.com](http://togetherqc.com). They also are taking any other personal protective equipment, or PPE, including medial gloves, masks and gowns.

The Salvation Army also continues to collect donations of personal protective equipment. Donations continue to be needed in the community. Individuals or businesses interested in donating PPE should contact the Salvation Army at 563-324-4808.

### **Test Results**

As more testing takes place in our community, we have been hearing feedback on testing timelines. Private providers take swabs from individuals they believe are showing symptoms of COVID-19 illness.

In Iowa, the samples then are sent to either the State Hygienic Laboratory or private labs. Results are sent to the State Hygienic Laboratory if the patient meets testing criteria – these results are taking 2-3 days. In Illinois, results sent to one of the 3 state labs – Chicago, Springfield and Carbondale – are being turned around in 1-2 days. In both states, we are being told that results sent to private labs are taking 10-14 days.

“Results are being sent to the provider that requested the test,” Rivers said. “Just like for another other labs, individuals can expect to hear their results from their provider’s office.”

As a reminder, of the individuals that may contract COVID-19 illness, **up to 80 percent** will experience only mild or moderate symptoms and will likely not need to see a medical provider

and can recover at home. This will help to minimize the spread of illness that is more likely when an individual goes in for COVID-19 testing and preserves personal protective equipment that is needed for any individual, no matter how ill, when they present for a COVID-19 test.

### **Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund**

The Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund is our community's way to respond to disasters when they happen. It was established in 2016 to position us in the best possible way to respond swiftly to emergencies and disaster — if and when they happen.

People and businesses are making gifts now to help those most vulnerable and affected by this pandemic. In partnership with United Way of the Quad Cities and the Regional Development Authority, we've already raised more than \$580,000 for our community response, but much more is needed, said Kelly Thompson, vice president of grantmaking and community initiatives at the Quad Cities Community Foundation

"As of end of day Friday, application requests amounted to nearly \$2.5 million in need. Right now, we can meet 23 percent of those needs," Thompson said.

Grants are being evaluated by teams from the Community Foundation, United Way of the Quad Cities, and Regional Development Authority, who are experienced grantmakers and informed by the Disaster Ready Quad Cities coalition of organizations responding to in Scott and Rock Island counties.

The first round of grants were announced today — \$350,402 to 19 nonprofits, representing nearly all of the "cash on hand" thus far, Thompson said.

Grants are going to nonprofits, schools and organizations providing basic needs services —things such as food, housing, access to healthcare and support needed for those experiencing job loss.

"But we can only grant what is given, so we ask every Quad Citizen and every organization that loves the Quad Cities to share some of that love with a generous gift to the fund," Thompson said. She added that 100 percent of every gift will go to this disaster response and that the Quad Cities Community Foundation is covering the cost of administering this fund.

To give, please visit [www.qccommunityfoundation.org/qcdisasterrecovery](http://www.qccommunityfoundation.org/qcdisasterrecovery)

### **River Bend Foodbank**

The River Bend Foodbank is continuing to distribute food to people now even more in need because of the COVID-19 crisis. The organization's expenses are increasing because of the cost of prepacking food boxes, increased deliveries and having to purchase food. The organization is asking for unrestricted monetary donations to help more people. To give, visit [riverbendfoodbank.org](http://riverbendfoodbank.org) then click on "donate."

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