



## Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 8, 2020

### Current COVID-19 case count

**Scott County** – 11 new cases reported for a total of 77. Nine people remain hospitalized, and 57 have recovered.

**Rock Island County** – 13 new cases reported for a total of 73 and a second death. 5 people remain hospitalized.

The second resident to die of COVID-19 in Rock Island County was a woman in her 70s who had been hospitalized.

“We offer our deepest sympathies to this woman’s family and friends,” said Nita Ludwig, administrator of the Rock Island County Health Department. “This virus is very dangerous to older people and people who have underlying health concerns. We implore everyone to stay at home — including those who do not feel ill — to give our vulnerable residents the best chance not to get sick.”

### Age breakdown in Scott County

Many of the COVID-19 cases we are hearing about in the news, whether in the Quad Cities or nationally, often involve older adults and the elderly, said Edward Rivers, director of the Scott County Health Department. However, he said it is important to stress that COVID-19 isn’t an illness that only older adults are catching.

“We are finding a large number of our positive cases are in individuals in the younger adult (18-40 years of age) and middle aged adult (41-60) age groups. In fact, based on the positive cases received, cases reported for the younger adult (18-40 years of age) and middle aged adult (41-60 years of age) are both higher than the number of cases in the older adult (61-80 years of age) and elderly (>81 years of age) age groups.”

The state of Iowa is reporting similar age breakdowns for the positive cases across the state, he said.

“While we know that testing criteria may play a role in some of this, it is still noteworthy to share that younger individuals are not immune from contracting and spreading this illness,” he said.

Those over the age of 60 are more likely to experience more serious COVID-19 illness.

“But if we are seeing larger numbers of cases in the younger adult and middle-aged adult age groups and their illnesses are less severe, we may be seeing increased spread of the illness by these less sick groups if they aren’t following our pleas to stay home as much as possible.”

This is why our messaging hasn’t changed. **Stay home. It saves lives.** Even if you’re in one of the younger age groups and don’t worry about your ability to fight off COVID-19 should you become infected, know

that you can still transmit it to others. And there are most definitely others in our community that are at greater risk for more severe illness, Rivers said.

“Please, please help us protect our community by making those hard, maybe even unpopular decisions,” he said. This is how:

- Stay at home as much as possible and limit trips out and about for only essential items
- Don’t host playdates or sleepovers for your children, even if this only includes one playmate
- Don’t participate in group outdoor activities
- Don’t allow your children to hang out with groups of friends in their down time
- Don’t go to stores and browse just to get out of the house

“Our community needs you to make these hard but important choices. The choices you are making today will impact us all,” Rivers said.

### **River Bend Food Bank**

Mike Miller, president and chief executive officer of River Bend Foodbank, said his organization is committed to expanding charitable food distribution to help more people who are even now more in need because of the COVID-19 crisis.

“There is no truth to any rumor that we are suspending operations, but it has become necessary for us to modify almost everything we do for the safety of all involved,” he said.

From the inception of this crisis, River Bend Foodbank developed immediate, moderate, and catastrophic plans for responding. “For the record, we are currently somewhere in between immediate and moderate,” he said.

The foodbank has suspended all unnecessary travel, is avoiding outside meetings, and is strictly limiting access to the facility. Anyone who does enter is asked three screening questions provided by public health officials before being admitted and is required to use hand sanitizer, located at all entrances, he said.

For everyone’s safety, volunteers and staff from the hundreds of food pantries who used to enter to select individual food items no longer come into the building. The foodbank’s entire inventory is now available on an online ordering system. Partner agencies order ahead and pull up to the doors. Foodbank staff then set their pallets of food items on the dock, and they load their vehicles without having to enter, Miller said.

“Inside the building, we have become fanatic about hand washing, using hand sanitizer, coughing into our sleeves, not touching our faces, and staying 6 feet away from each other at all times,” he said. “Sick people are staying home, and employees with sick family members are staying home. We recognize that should we have an outbreak at the foodbank, that would shut us down, and we are doing everything in our power to keep that day from happening.”

Miller said the toughest issue for his team is how to handle their dedicated volunteers.

“The great progress we have made toward ending hunger has been a community-wide effort. River Bend Foodbank typically utilizes over 4,000 volunteers who work over 15,000 hours every year,” he said,

“Honestly, we could use their help more than ever before, and hundreds of people have called to offer, but we don’t want to open our doors to the public and expose ourselves to community spread. This is for the safety of everyone involved – the volunteers themselves, along with our staff, partner agencies, and the hungry people we serve.”

At this time, the foodbank is asking volunteers to register on the organization’s website, [riverbendfoodbank.org](http://riverbendfoodbank.org) and then click on “Volunteer.”

“While no specific opportunities are being scheduled at this time, when that time comes, we will reach out to those who register,” he said.

### **Quad Cities Community Foundation**

The Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund was activated by the Quad Cities Community Foundation on March 12 and began fundraising for it immediately, said Anne Calder, vice president of development at the foundation.

Giving to the fund to date totals \$908,230 in gifts and commitments. This includes the more than \$123,000 given April 6-7 through the “Unite Quad Cities” giving day promoted by the region’s four TV stations, many radio stations, two newspapers, Community Foundation and United Way of the Quad Cities, she said.

“We continue to process gifts to the fund, and will do so well into the future as the social and economic needs from this pandemic are both immediate and long-term in nature,” she said.

Grant applications total more than \$2.8 million, Calder said. The initial \$350,000 in grants from the fund were announced and distributed on March 30.

Grant reviewers from the Community Foundation, United Way of the Quad Cities and Regional Development Authority now are reviewing a second round and anticipate an announcement next week.

Grants are awarded on a rolling basis as gifts are deposited to the fund. Grants from the fund are being prioritized to nonprofit organizations, schools or units of governments that are (in this order):

- Providing basic needs services to communities already vulnerable before the pandemic or who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic
- Providing any services to such populations
- Experiencing challenges due to following public health recommendations with a focus on those that need support to implement remote work or that are at high risk of staff reductions.

Calder said that 100 percent of every donation is being granted out. To donate visit [qccommunityfoundation.org](http://qccommunityfoundation.org) or mail a donation to:

Quad Cities Community Foundation  
852 Middle Road, Suite 100  
Bettendorf, IA 52722

For more information, call Calder at 563-326-2840 or email her at [annecalder@qccommunityfoundation.org](mailto:annecalder@qccommunityfoundation.org).

## **Process to acquire PPE in Rock Island County**

Currently, personal protective equipment, including masks, gowns, goggles and face shields, is in short supply, but more is coming into our community through the Strategic National Stockpile. The SNS includes supplies maintained by the federal government and distributed through state Emergency Management Agencies.

“We are beginning to see some supplies come into our county,” said Nita Ludwig, administrator of the Rock Island County Health Department. “Our emergency preparedness manager is working closely with the county’s EMA to get these supplies to requesting first responders and healthcare workers as quickly as possible.”

Through the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, certain entities can request PPE. This current process is in place during this unprecedented COVID-19 response and involves both the Illinois Pharmaceutical Stockpile and the Strategic National Stockpile.

“The general public cannot request masks or other PPE through this process,” Ludwig said. “The Salvation Army in the Quad Cities is collecting homemade masks and other donated PPE that residents and organizations can request.”

The procedure for requesting PPE follows:

- **Hospitals** — Hospitals and other medical first responders, including EMS providers, urgent care centers and EMTs should first contact their resource hospital with their needs. If the resource hospital cannot meet the needs, then they are to contact their Regional Hospital Coordinating Center, which in our area is in Peoria. If needs cannot be met, then a request is put in with the Rock Island County Health Department to be sent to the Rock Island County Emergency Management Agency who will push this request up to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, or IEMA, and ultimately to the State Emergency Operations Center, or SEOC.
- **Law enforcement** — Fire, police, and all other non-medical first responders will notify the Rock Island County Emergency Management Agency directly, and if needs cannot be met, will push the request to the IEMA and then the SEOC.
- **Long-term care facilities** — These facilities will contact Rock Island County Health Department directly. If needs cannot be met with RICHD, the request will be sent to Rock Island County EMA, who then will ask IEMA and then to the SEOC.
- **Other governmental health care providers** — Veterans Affairs clinics, Federally Qualified Health Clinics, (in the Quad Cities, this is Community Health Care) and others should contact the Rock Island County Health Department. If needs cannot be met with RICHD, the request will be sent to Rock Island County EMA, who then will ask IEMA and then to the SEOC.
- **All other healthcare providers** — Non-governmental freestanding clinics, non-hospital affiliated facilities and those not associated with the Peoria Region Healthcare Coalition should follow their normal procedure for acquiring resources.

## **More information and video**

- Flattening the Curve Resource: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america>

- Together Quad Cities: Keep Staying Home: [https://youtu.be/ GG0hRvJ0So](https://youtu.be/GG0hRvJ0So)
- IDPH COVID-19 PSA (television): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvsF02uCM-M&feature=youtu.be>
- IDPH COVID-19 PSA  
(radio): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xznWLKeZO3E&feature=youtu.be>
- [www.TogetherQC.com](http://www.TogetherQC.com)

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