



Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2020

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – 11 new cases reported for a total of 88. One person is hospitalized.

Rock Island County – 12 new cases reported for a total of 85 and a third death. Six people are hospitalized.

The third resident to die of COVID-19 in Rock Island County was a man in his 70s who had been hospitalized.

“We are saddened to report our third death in Rock Island County. While anyone can contract COVID-19, the virus is most dangerous to older people and people who have underlying health conditions. We strongly urge everyone to stay at home to give our residents most vulnerable to this virus the best chance to avoid getting sick. Staying home especially is important for younger people who do not feel ill but who can transmit the virus without knowing they have it,” said Nita Ludwig, administrator of the Rock Island County Health Department.

Religious celebrations

The arrival of April brings several major religious holidays and observances. “We acknowledge the important role faith and religious observances play for many in our community, especially during times of uncertainty such as the one we are currently experiencing,” said Edward Rivers, director of the Scott County Health Department.

Rivers urges faith community leaders to protect public health by following both the Illinois and Iowa Departments of Public Health and CDC guidelines restricting social gatherings in large groups. He encourages faith leaders to continue to explore and provide alternative options for offering online or other remote access worship services or messages.

“We ask for your understanding in this trying time, and that you help protect the health and safety of your faith communities by postponing or cancelling all social gatherings until social distancing recommendations have been lifted,” he said.

Cloth masks in public

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released updated guidance on the use of cloth face coverings. This guidance recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings when other physical distancing of at least 6 feet is difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies.

“The use of simple cloth face coverings is intended to help slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others,” Ludwig said.

The CDC also recommends that workers in essential businesses who can’t maintain social distancing — again, such as grocery stores and pharmacies — wear cloth masks while working.

Surgical masks and N-95 masks are important personal protective equipment that is needed for our health care workers and first responders. Members of the public should not use N-95 or surgical masks in order to help preserve them for those workers that need them.

“We must note that wearing a mask in public does NOT minimize the need to practice physical distancing and handwashing. These will still be our greatest tools for helping slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community,” she said.

Directions on how to make a cloth face masks are on TogetherQC.com.

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>
- 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

###