



Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 13, 2020

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – 3 new cases for a total of 118. Two people are hospitalized.
Scott County cases from weekend:

- Friday: 11
- Saturday: 12
- Sunday: 4

Rock Island County – 21 new cases for a total of 150. (Weekend cases previously were reported.)

Coping: Remarks from Nita Ludwig, administrator of the Rock Island County Health Department

Today marks 1 month since Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker closed schools and restaurants to dine-in services in Illinois. The 1-month anniversary of the Stay at Home order is later this week. A month is a long time, and it might seem like it's been longer. We're not done, but we are seeing signs of hope. We are beginning to see – at least in Illinois – evidence that our social distancing and our stay at home order are working. We are seeing some leveling off in the case growth, but it's too early yet to call this a trend. We are hopeful.

We know it was hard to miss religious gatherings over the weekend. High school spring sports should be in full swing. We should be hearing the crack of the bat at Modern Woodmen Park. We're missing the arts, from high school spring musicals and concerts to local theater productions to the Quad City Symphony and Ballet. We miss life.

But the only way we keep making progress against this pandemic is doing more of what we've done over the last month. We must continue to stay home and go out only for essential trips. We must stay away from extended family. We must resist going to a store open for essential items to simply browse and get out of the house.

We've talked a lot here about what we can't do. Let's turn it around and talk about what you are doing to help. Every time you practice social distancing, you're doing your part. Every time you limit your time out of your home, you're helping flatten the curve. You can go for a walk if you maintain 6 feet between you and others. You can clear out the dead of winter from your flowerbeds. You can try that new recipe. You can call or videochat with your loved ones. You can wash your hands and frequently touched surfaces. You can marvel at the sunshine on days — like today — the sun cooperates.

We all thank you for all that you've already done and ask that you keep doing it. We will get through this. We are getting through this.

If you need a little more help – and this is OK and understandable – Illinois has launched a mental health resource called "Call4Calm." Illinois residents wanting to speak to a mental health care professional for free can text the word "TALK" to 552020. The service is also available in Spanish by texting "HABLAR" to 552020.

Updated Business Guidance: Remarks from Edward Rivers, director of the Scott County Health Department

The Iowa Department of Public Health released new guidance for businesses aimed at preventing and responding to COVID-19 outbreaks in the workplace.

We certainly hope that businesses in our community that are operating have been implementing their plans for responding to COVID-19. These include:

- Encouraging flexible work-from-home and leave policies.
- Considering staggering shifts to reduce worker population at any given time.
- Staggering breaks to reduce staff interactions.
- Reviewing procedures to identify ways to increase the physical separation of staff.

The Iowa Department of Public Health recommends the following measures to detect any illnesses that may occur:

- Screen all employees at the beginning and end of every shift by taking employees' temperature and assessing for cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing
- Send any employees with fever and/or respiratory symptoms home to self-isolate until they:
 - Have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) AND
 - Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)AND
 - At least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared
- These employees should stay home, whether or not they've had a positive test result

If businesses note that at least 10 percent of staff are ill with COVID-19 symptoms, they should fill out the Iowa Department of Public Health's survey for businesses. You can find a link to the survey in the COVID-19 Outbreak Guidance for Businesses document found on the Businesses and Organizations page of the IDPH Novel Coronavirus website. Public health will follow up with recommendations and guidance.

Link: <https://redcap.idph.state.ia.us/surveys/?s=NRJ4FDMDPN>

Long-Term Care Facilities: Remarks from Edward Rivers, director of the Scott County Health Department

Long-term care facilities have been in the news and, in some areas, have been particularly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Individuals in long-term care facilities are vulnerable groups and often at risk for more severe illness to things like COVID-19.

The Iowa Department of Public Health continues to provide recommendations and guidance to long-term care facilities.

The Scott County Health Department answers questions and provides support to long term care facilities to minimize the impact of COVID-19.

Most of these facilities in our community have had to limit visits by family and friends. We recognize how hard it is to be unable to visit your loved one in a facility; but this is one of the many difficult ways that we as a community are helping protect our most vulnerable from COVID-19.

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

###