



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – 5 new cases for a total of 129.

Rock Island County – 20 new cases for a total of 180.

No time for complacency

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director of the Scott County Health Department

Some in our community may feel that our community is currently in a lull in respect with COVID-19. There haven't been recent major changes in guidance handed down from either of our states and we've all settled into our new temporary normal of staying home, limiting our time out and about, and remaining social with our family and friends from afar or virtually.

However, we are NOT in a lull and now is NOT the time for us to get complacent. The COVID-19 models out of the Washington state indicate that the peak or highest point of our COVID-19 infections will not appear until the early May. That means that we have not come out the other side of this pandemic ... yet.

Because COVID-19 symptoms take up to 14 days to appear after someone has been exposed to COVID-19, what we are doing today WILL NOT impact our community until the end of the month. What we do now will affect the length of time COVID-19 continues to spread in our community. So we MUST use the tools we each have to control how we respond to COVID-19:

- Staying home. As much as possible.
- Stay 6 feet away from others when it's necessary to be in public locations (grocery stores and pharmacies) and when outdoors.
 - If you must go to the grocery store, don't bring the whole family. Send one of you to get groceries and get back home.
- Don't gather in groups, especially with individuals from different households. This increases risk for exposure to the virus.
- Clean and sanitize high touch areas of your home and workspace.
- Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.

As a community, we don't want to look back on this event years from now and realize that we didn't do all we could to protect ourselves and our neighbors. We can do this.

We must stay vigilant

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

How long will all of this go on? We in local public health don't have the authority to decide. In our federal Constitutional republic, those powers are reserved for the governors of the states.

In the Quad Cities, we get a unique view of how there is not a uniform set of national guidelines. Illinoisans live under a stay-at-home order from Gov. JB Pritzker, but Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has not issued a similar mandate. Our message locally has been clear for weeks: Stay at home.

Despite all the personal and economic pain COVID-19 has caused, this week, World Health Organization officials say in most places around the globe, now is too soon to get back to normal. Jumping the gun could trigger new peaks of COVID-19. The process must be slow, deliberate and coordinated.

Any government that wants to start lifting restrictions, WHO officials said, should look closely at the following six conditions:

1. Disease transmission is under control
2. Health systems are able to "detect, test, isolate and treat every case and trace every contact"
3. Hot spot risks are minimized in vulnerable places, such as nursing homes
4. Schools, workplaces and other essential places have established preventive measures
5. The risk of importing new cases "can be managed"
6. Communities are fully educated, engaged and empowered to live under a new normal

We likely have not met those criteria. The number of new cases continues to rise sharply in the U.S. In Illinois and Iowa, we are seeing signs that restrictive measures are starting to flatten the curve. But we must note that flattening the curve only means the rapid rise might have ended – we could be at this level peak for some time. We don't know how long, but we do know that people doing their part by staying at home could lead to a drop in the number of cases here.

We just finished a weekend of religious and cultural celebrations important to many Quad Citians. Some of you may have attended extended family gatherings. We could see another peak of new infections in 7-10 days as a result.

While decision-makers at the state level will be trusted to make these decisions for our community, the reality is you have the power. Use it wisely and stay home.

Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE

Rock Island County

Remarks from Deputy Mike Mendoza, Rock Island County Sheriff's Department

The Rock Island County Emergency Management Agency has received seven shipments from the state. First shipment was received was March 20, and the seventh shipment came April 14.

The shipments have varied in size. The Illinois Department of Transportation picks up the shipments and delivers the PPE to the designated delivery sites. The state reaches out to us when a shipment is en-route, and that is the only way local EMA knows it is coming.

Rock Island County has provided PPE to 33 different organizations within our county which consists of but not limited to hospitals, long-term care facilities, Rock Island County Health Department, acute care facilities, police departments, correctional staff, fire, EMS, transportation and public works.

The county also has issued cloth masks to all sheriff deputies, correctional officers, inmates at the Rock Island County Jail, and police department and health department employees.

All cloth masks were donated from several individuals and foundations from the local area. If anyone wants to donate a cloth mask, call 309-799-7986.

Scott County

Remarks from Dave Donovan, director of the Scott County Emergency Management Agency and director of the Scott Emergency Communications Center

Scott County EMA has two county employees working exclusively on PPE.

They also have a Bettendorf firefighter, who is working a good portion of his time in this effort and is acting as the county's resource and logistics lead.

Within EMA, two staff members are working with PPE and logistics for a smaller portion of their time.

They currently are fulfilling PPE requests for two groups: healthcare and first responders (emergency medical, fire and law enforcement).

Most of what Scott County EMA is supplying include: hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, nitrile gloves, surgical masks, cloth masks, N95 masks, isolation gowns and face shields and other eye protection.

"We are getting distributions from the State of Iowa. However, those distributions tend to be a percentage (typically less than half for most items) of what we request. We understand that that is because there are shortages of some PPE nationwide."

“Scott County EMA continues to work with suppliers to fill the gap between requests and what is provide through the state of Iowa. Thus far, we are meeting most needs at this time. That may change as the duration of the need continues to increase.”

Crisis services in Iowa

Remarks from Lori Elam, CEO of the Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services region

(Flyer is attached to email)

Services available from the Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services region:

- 24-hour Mobile Crisis Outreach and 24-hour Crisis Line: 844-430-0375
- 24-hour Life Connections Peer Respite Support Line: 516-688-7484
- MCSA Peer Line and Virtual Groups. Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 563-200-2742
- Life Connections Peer Line and Virtual Groups. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 5-10 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday: 12-5 p.m. Call 563-357-6352
- Vera French Peer Drop In: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 563-322-5276
- 24 Hour Crisis Stabilization Residential. Call 563-396-3017
- Care Coordination
- Substance Use Disorder Services
- Justice Involved Care Coordination
- Committal Pre-Screening
- 24 Hour Tele-Health in the Emergency Departments

More information and video

- Flattening the Curve Resource: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america>
- Together Quad Cities: Keep Staying Home video: <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

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