



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – 6 new cases for a total of 155.

Rock Island County – 13 new cases for a total of 214. 12 patients are in the hospital

Stay home, save lives

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

We hope by now that you haven't been able to turn on the TV, open up the newspaper, turn on the radio, or open your social media feeds without hearing or reading our "Stay home, save lives" message. Above all else, this is what will help us protect our community.

However, we do want to acknowledge the fact that there are many in our community that are still working or providing critical services to our community in this time. For the grocery store and restaurant workers, the healthcare and public health workers, the childcare workers, and the business employees, now is not a time when they can choose work from home, virtual work, or use other non-traditional options to stay home. They are relying on the rest of us to stay home to help minimize the risk to each of them as they make the trek to work each day to provide the goods and services that are keeping our families and community running.

For some of our friends and neighbors, they simply cannot afford to stay home without putting the livelihood of themselves or their families at risk. For many, no work means no pay. And no pay turns into no food, no healthcare, and no housing. These members of our community bear a large portion of the burden of COVID-19's impact on our communities. Again, it is up to each of us to take the steps needed to keep ourselves and others from getting infected and spreading the virus to those who must still fulfill their duties.

If you're able to stay home and/or work from home at this time, great. We thank you for taking our advice. Please continue to do so and make sure that, even though you might be getting antsy to get out and about, you only go out for the essentials when you're needing to do so.

If you're still going in to work each day, thank you for the role you play in our community. Make sure you're washing your hands often, sanitizing your workspace, and finding the best ways possible to distance yourself from others while you are at work. And once you're home from work, stay home and again, only go out for essentials when they're absolutely needed.

If you have elderly or homebound family or friends, make sure to check in on them and monitor what needs they have — but do so from afar. I'm sure your dad or grandpa would love nothing

more than a visit from you, but even a short visit can turn deadly. A phone call, visit through the window, or video phone calls can help keep you connected and meeting their needs.

We are each experiencing this pandemic, but are each experiencing it in unique ways. For those of you needing assistance during this difficult time, we encourage you to reach out. Visit the TogetherQC website for links to resources for individuals, families, and businesses.

We are in this together.

Effective use of face coverings

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

We have received many inquiries about the proper wearing of face coverings in public, so here are some guidelines about how to do it properly.

- Focus on the fit
 - Coverings should be snug, but still comfortable, cover your whole nose and mouth, and extend under your chin.
- Put it on carefully
 - One of the most important steps is to use appropriate hand hygiene
 - Before putting on and after taking off the covering, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Don't touch the covering while wearing it.
 - It is important to understand that the outside of the covering is considered contaminated.
 - The virus can survive from 2 to 7 days on surfaces such as coverings, studies have shown.
 - The Iowa Department of Public Health says "You should avoid touching or adjusting your covering while in public, and clean your hands immediately if you do have to touch it."
- Take it off carefully
 - Be extra careful not to touch the front of your covering or your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing the covering.
 - Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after removing the covering.
 - Your hands could be contaminated with the virus from removing the covering
- Wash the covering often
 - The Iowa Department of Public Health says, "You should launder the covering after each use and when it is visibly soiled."
 - This will kill and remove any virus remaining on the covering.
- Maintain social distancing
 - Wearing a face covering is one additional step we can all take, but it does not replace social distancing.

- Stay at least six feet away from others, and avoid crowded places.
- The covering is not a complete protection from the virus.

Outbreaks

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

For several weeks, you've heard us talk about how Illinois and Iowa might have differences in the response to this crisis. One of these differences is how states report clusters of any infectious disease, including COVID-19.

The Iowa Department of Public Health has been reporting outbreaks in specific workplaces, nursing homes and in other businesses by name and location throughout the state, in the interest of public health in these unique times.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has not been releasing the same information. We at the Rock Island County Health Department must follow the rules and regulations set out by the state of Illinois. The Rock Island County Health Department will not release specific workplace or case information because of federal privacy laws. This has been a long-standing policy of the health department. We understand this could be frustrating to the public.

What we can report is all of the work that our infectious disease, environmental health staff and management team is doing with leaders of those facilities to mitigate issues and keep these communities as safe as possible.

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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