



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – 4 new cases for a total of 230

1 death of an adult age 41-60. Total deaths in Scott County: 7

Rock Island County – 13 new cases for a total of 448. 22 patients are in the hospital

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 10

Changes in Iowa

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

An additional death of a Scott County resident, an adult age 41-60, was announced today. Our thoughts go out to the family and friends of this individual. We are saddened to have now lost a total of 7 Scott County residents to the COVID-19 virus. As a community, we must remain vigilant and work together to help protect those most at risk in our community.

Today, May 1, marks the beginning of some changes in Iowa as guided by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' proclamation on Monday, April 27. 77 of Iowa's counties are allowed to begin limited reopening of businesses and establishments. This includes restaurants, fitness centers, malls, libraries, race tracks, and other retail establishments.

However, Scott County is one of the 22 counties in Iowa where the governor has extended the closures and orders. Scott County restaurants, fitness centers, malls, libraries, race tracks, and other retail establishments are to remain closed until the Governor establishes new guidance.

Scott County continues to see COVID-19 positive cases. It is for this reason that the governor is keeping our county and 21 others closed. Recognizing that we have not yet reached our peak, we must work together as a community to get past it with the fewest cases, deaths, and hospitalizations possible. We can do this by:

1. **Continuing to stay home.** We know, it has gotten old, and it's no fun. Remember, there are those in our community that must be out during this time, whether they are essential workers supporting our community or workers in jobs that keep them on the front lines where they are not offered the opportunity to work from home. When you stay home, you help to support and protect them.
2. **Keep yourself physically distant from those outside of your household.** You may not have the option not to go out obtain essential supplies. But please keep 6 feet or more between yourself and others when you must be out and about.

3. **Do not gather in groups.** We aren't just talking about formal gatherings. Even unexpectedly encountering friends and other families when you're out can put you and others at risk if one of you are infected and don't know it. You can spread the virus without having symptoms.
4. **Stay home if you start experiencing respiratory symptoms.** If you're experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms, your body is telling you that you are ill. When you begin to have symptoms, you can definitely spread the illness to others. A positive or negative COVID-19 test won't change that.
5. **Wash your hands.** Wash your hands. Wash your hands. There's a reason this message has withstood the test of time. IT WORKS.

Additionally, you may have been hearing about the new Testlowa initiative in the state. Gov. Kim Reynolds announced earlier this week that a Testlowa site will be coming to Scott County next week. All Iowa residents are encouraged to visit Testlowa.com and fill out the assessment that will help officials learn more about COVID-19 in our state. Individuals needing testing will be identified and given an appointment at the Scott County drive-through testing site. Testing done at the site will be by appointment only and directly connected to the Testlowa.com assessment.

Changes in Illinois

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

Illinoisans still are under a stay-at-home order from Gov. JB Pritzker through the end of the month. The biggest change of the order is all residents age 2 and older medically able must wear a cloth face covering when they are unable to maintain 6 feet of physician distance in public. Our community partner Medic made a fantastic video about why cloth face coverings are important and how you should wear them. We invite you to watch the video on togetherqc.com or on the Facebook pages of both the Rock Island and Scott County health departments.

While the face covering mandate is the biggest change that started today in Illinois, it is not the only one. Other restrictions from the governor's previous executive order loosened up starting today.

Non-essential businesses for phone and online orders

Retail stores designated as non-essential businesses can reopen to take phone calls and fulfill online orders through curbside pickup or delivery. Non-essential businesses that were closed under the previous order but can now operate include:

- Greenhouses, garden centers and nurseries

- Pet groomers
- Retail shops for curbside pickup and delivery
- Hospitals, surgicenters and outpatient health care facilities can resume some non-emergency surgeries starting today

Golf courses

Golf courses across the state can reopen under strict guidelines meant to limit physical interaction, including allowing only twosomes, no use of carts and spacing out of tee times.

State parks

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources will partially reopen 24 state parks. Site visitor centers, campgrounds, playgrounds, beaches and concessions will remain closed. No park in the Illinois Quad-City region will reopen, but some in northwestern Illinois will.

Working from home

Any employee who can work from home is required to.

Travel

All travel is only permitted for trips to and from essential businesses to work or conduct “essential business,” such as picking up groceries or medications. Biking is permitted recreationally, along with walking, hiking and running, but social distancing guidelines must be followed.

Schools and dorms

Educational institutions can establish procedures for pick-up of necessary supplies or student belongings. Dormitory move-outs must follow public health guidelines, including social distancing. Please watch for instructions from your school or district.

More information and video

- A video recording of today’s media call can be found at <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/covid19/news>
- www.TogetherQC.com
- 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>

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