



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – 19 new cases for a total of 245 since last reporting
(4 on May 1; 6 on May 2; 5 on May 3; 4 on May 4)
Total deaths in Scott County: 7

Rock Island County – 22 new cases for a total of 491. 22 patients are in the hospital.
2 new death of residents due to COVID-19: a woman in her 90s and a man in his 80s.
Both had been being treated at a local hospital.
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 14

Expanded contact tracing in Iowa

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

The Iowa Department of Public Health announced last week that it would increase the follow-up activities completed by local public health departments in response to the spread of COVID-19 in the state. Beginning later this week, Scott County Health Department and our partner county health departments will begin expanded contact tracing. Since the middle of March until last week, our staff followed up on positive cases of COVID-19 in Scott County by:

- Completing an interview with the individual who tested positive (or a close family member)
- Determining who their household contacts were and providing guidance on how to prevent the spread of illness
- Determining when their symptoms began to determine their timeline for home isolation
- Assisting them in contacting their employer and determining the plan the employer has in place for responding to a positive case of COVID-19
- Following up with individuals periodically until they have completed home isolation

Later this week, public health staff will now be expanding their case follow-up, also known as contact tracing, to include:

- All contacts an individual may have had in the 48 hours prior to when they first started showing symptoms
- Contacts include individuals who they may have been physically near (closer than 6 feet) for longer than 30 minutes

New data suggests that the most infectious period for an individual is just before they begin to show symptoms. These changes to the guidance reflect public health's effort to take what we

now know and respond accordingly. That's why our messages of staying home and keeping your distance from others, even if you aren't sick, are still so very important.

When the spread of COVID-19 in our community slows, that doesn't mean it will stop. We must continue to respond as a community. And we are only as strong as the most vulnerable among us. Stay home. Save lives.

As a reminder, all Scott County residents are encouraged to complete the TestIowa.com assessment to help gather information on the spread of COVID-19 in the state of Iowa.

Community efforts

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

The COVID-19 pandemic brings unprecedented emotional and physical health worries and economic strain to Quad-City residents. We are pleased to share with you two community efforts to help ease some of that pain.

The Rock Island County Health Department has partnered with a western Illinois diaper bank and another local organization to offer free diapers to Rock Island County families. This special drive-through event is from 10 a.m. to noon this Thursday at the health department, 2112 25th Ave., Rock Island. Families can receive 50 diapers per child from Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank and Hiney Heroes. Each child must be present in the vehicle.

Loving Bottoms is based in Galesburg, and Hiney Heroes is a Quad-City organization. The diaper pickup on Thursday is for Rock Island County residents only, but Hiney Heroes plans to host an event for Scott County families soon.

Diapers strain the finances of many families, even in non-COVID-19 times. According to Hiney Heroes, 1 in 3 families reports have a diaper need. Disposable diapers cost up to \$80 a month per child, and no state or federal safety-net program allows benefits to be used for diapers.

Hiney Heroes offers help to local families through the generosity of others. If you wish to donate to this 501-3(c) organization, visit their website at hineyheroes.com. All donations are tax exempt.

The other community event we've learned of will honor the 21 Quad-Citians who have lost their lives due to COVID-19. One Human Family QCA, Quad Cities Interfaith and many other organizations and faith-based communities will come outside – with proper social distancing and face coverings – at 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 6 to ring bells or make as much noise as possible to remember those lost from this virus.

This kind community gesture will not bring back those who we have lost, but it reminds us all that we're all in this together. For more information about One Human Family, visit onehumanfamilyqca.org.

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>

###