



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 6, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – 5 new cases for a total of 260
Total deaths in Scott County: 7

Rock Island County – 14 new cases for a total of 530.
2 newly reported deaths: a woman in her 90s and a man in his 80s
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 16
20 patients are in the hospital.

Today's call

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

Let's Work Together, Apart

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

Social distancing

By now, it would be hard to find anyone in our community that hasn't heard the message to social distance. For the coronavirus to spread, it requires people to be close together and exchange droplets that an infected person produces when they cough, sneeze, or talk. The key is that people have to be near one another for the virus to spread. The virus has much less of a chance to be exchanged between people when we stay six or more feet apart.

Until this virus is under control, we HAVE TO keep our distance from others, both now and in the near future. We have to forgo group gatherings, get togethers with extended families, and informal hangouts with those we haven't seen in a while. Our community is only as strong as the most vulnerable among us; so we must stay apart, for everyone in our community.

Hand washing

We know you've heard "wash your hands" a million times. But guess what? It's stood the test of time because it works. It kills viruses and prevents us from spreading them.

Washing your hands with soap and water is one of the most effective ways to avoid an illness. Use soap, clean, running water, and scrub for at least 20 seconds. Don't worry, if soap and water is not available, using a hand sanitizer can also be effective.

And make sure you wash your hands:

- after blowing your nose, sneezing, or coughing
- before preparing or eating food
- before touching your eyes, mouth, or nose
- and after touching anything that could be contaminated.

Stay home when sick

Our hope is for all of us to stay healthy. But, we have to be prepared to protect other people in our home and community if we become sick.

If you find yourself sick,

- Stay home and do not visit public areas or use public transportation.
- Take care of yourself.
- Try to stay away from others in your home to reduce the spread of illness.
- Stay in touch with your doctor and call ahead before you get medical care.

As a community, we are strong and we take care of one another. So we must maintain our distance, maintain good handwashing, and stay home when we are ill. We must do this for ourselves, for our families, and for our community.

Thank you and your responsibilities

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

Let's talk a little bit about how many people are working on this pandemic response in the Quad Cities. You hear – and now see – both Ed Rivers and I along with our public information officers every weekday. However, thousands of Quad Citians are working tirelessly to make sure that you get the healthcare, supplies, food, shelter, information and leadership you need.

Your water still is coming to your house, and your trash still is going out. Bus drivers still take people to their essential jobs at hospitals, grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, pharmacies, manufacturers and government and get them home safely. Teachers in the span of days turned their entire lesson plans into online learning modules. Police officers and firefighters still jump to help when you call. Healthcare, all first responders and public health workers literally put their lives on the line for yours. Journalists, too, work for the public good and are putting in long hours in less-than-safe situations to keep our community informed. We thank you all.

From the beginning, leaders in government, business and the nonprofit sector kept a hopeful eye toward returning to normal. Also from the beginning, we have said that our states might take different approaches. Last week, we heard about Iowa's recovery plan from Gov. Kim Reynolds, and yesterday we learned of the "Restore Illinois" plan put forth by Illinois Gov. JB

Pritzker. The governors' plans are different and don't seem to take into account the specifics of our unique bistate community.

Illinois is taking a measured approach to reopening. Rock Island County is part of a region that includes more than a quarter of the state – from just beyond the western Chicago suburbs over to Rockford and Galena, down to the Quad Cities and Macomb and over to Peoria and Bloomington and then back up to toward the metro region.

The governor's plan is for the entire region to move together from one phase to another. The counties will not move individually. The entire state is in Phase 2 now, and Phase 5 reflects a full recovery. We must meet many milestones before we celebrate reaching Phase 5. Local leaders in each county will have some input, but the final decision to move to the next phase – or to move backward – lie with the governor and his team.

But you have the power to influence the governor's decision. The Quad Cities could be a bright spot in our huge region if residents take the messages we've given for weeks now to heart. In fact, Ed already has given your daily reminder to maintain social distancing and wash your hands etc. Just know this: Your personal decisions affect more than you. Please choose wisely.

More information

- 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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