



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 7, 2020**

**Current COVID-19 case count**

**Scott County** – 14 new cases for a total of 274  
Total deaths in Scott County: 7

**Rock Island County** – 18 new cases for a total of 548. 21 patients are in the hospital.  
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 17

**Today's call**

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

**Media briefing schedule changing**

Starting the week of May 11, the Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition will offer virtual media briefings three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, unless a situation warrants additional information to be conveyed.

**Changes in Scott County**

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

Since we last spoke with you, 24 hours ago, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has announced additional reopenings, some of which include Scott County.

- Friday, dental offices can resume dental services if they can follow stated guidelines and needed personal protective equipment
- Also Friday, the following facilities can open as long as they ensure social distancing and hygiene practices:
  - Campgrounds
  - Drive-in movie theaters
  - Tanning facilities
  - Medical spas
  - Fitness centers under limited circumstances
  - Malls, at limited capacity
  - Other retail establishments

Although some facilities in our community are being allowed to reopen in the next few days, COVID-19 illness continues to circulate in our community. This means that how we each respond to the reopenings in our community will be an important factor in how well our

community can further contain the spread of the virus and protect the most vulnerable in the community.

Before running out to your nearest retail outlet or other business, ask yourself the following questions to ensure you're doing your best to protect yourself and others:

- Do I have any symptoms that suggest I am ill? If yes, please stay home.
- Do I have an underlying health condition that makes me more at risk should I come into contact with someone who has the virus? If so, consider well before being around others.
- Is this a necessary trip for myself or my family? If not, be sure you want to go.
- How can I make sure I keep physical distance between myself and others while I'm in the public space? Choosing to go at non-peak times are good decisions to make.
- How can I ensure hand hygiene when I'm out and about? Carrying hand sanitizer is a great option.

Iowa is reopening, but CoViD has not left the state. Act accordingly.

### **Families need diapers**

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

Any parent or guardian knows how quickly a baby can go through a pack of diapers. Today at the Rock Island County Health Department, we saw how quickly a community can snatch up 13,000 diapers.

The health department provided the parking lot and a little organizational help, and volunteers from two nonprofits provided the labor — and love — to serve 201 families with 263 children.

Davenport-based Hiney Heroes and Galesburg-based diaper bank Loving Bottoms plan to come back to the health department for another pick-up event in June. We'll let you know when that is happening. An event will be announced soon for Scott County, but details have not been worked out yet.

Families began lining up at 9:15 a.m., even though the event was supposed to start at 10 a.m. Soon, the line stretched from our parking lot, onto 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and around the corner on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. We all must take a moment to remember how devastating this pandemic is to families and our economy. But as Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker has said repeatedly, "You can't have a livelihood if you don't have a life."

We in public health serve clients who live check to check frequently. Our staff members regularly see how diapers strain family budgets, even in non-COVID-19 times. No state or federal safety-net program allows families to buy diapers with benefits. And diapers can cost up to \$80 a month per child. We're working out the details to be a permanent partner with these

organizations. Our families need the help, and we're grateful these organizations are there for them.

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](http://hineyheroes.com). All donations are tax exempt.

### **Faith in isolation**

Remarks from the Rev. Rich Hendricks, Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities and Co-Chair of the Faith Leaders Caucus of Quad Cities Interfaith and of One Human Family QCA

Clergy and faith leaders of many faith traditions in the Quad Cities stand united in our concern regarding allowing face-to-face spiritual and religious gatherings before the dangers of new infections and additional deaths has passed. We believe that faith and science are not in opposition, and strongly encourage people to wear masks and to adhere to physical distancing while in public.

Each of our faith traditions celebrates life. Our approaches to the Divine may differ, but for each of us, God is life-giving and life-confirming. While there is great spiritual power in sanctuary services, God is not just found within the walls of our houses of worship. God is available and accessible to us whenever and wherever we seek to connect with the Divine. God is calling upon us at this time to look deep within ourselves as we seek new ways of being connected with the God and with one another. It was never intended that gathering for sanctuary worship and prayer be a life-threatening activity, so we should not be doing that at this time. We are blessed to live in a time when faith communities can gather safely in virtual worship through the miracle of the internet. For now, it is enough.

I hope that our faith leaders will continue to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of the members of their congregations by keeping the doors to their houses of worship shut during this health crisis. One of the most emotionally taxing roles of clergy is officiating at the funerals of our beloved congregants and friends. The fewer deaths from COVID19, the fewer funerals we will have to perform.

To the faithful – make more phone calls, write personal notes, connect to one another by whatever means you can safely do so. Your love is needed now more than ever.

To honor those who have already fallen to this heinous coronavirus, we call upon everyone to come outside and ring bells or make noise at 3:00 p.m. Friday, May 8. After a couple of minutes of noise, please pause and say a prayer to honor those who have already died. Thank you.

### **Faithful responsibility**

Remarks from Rabbi Linda Bertenthal, Rabbi of Temple Emanuel of the Quad Cities

There is an important rabbinic teaching that whoever saves one life is considered to have saved an entire world, while destroying one life is like destroying an entire world. To unnecessarily

risk the life of another person by ending our physical distancing before it is safe is to risk destroying an entire world. That is why the Jewish community will follow the guidance of health professionals in deciding when and how to reopen our doors. That time is not now. Jewish tradition has so many teachings for this time of crisis. It teaches personal responsibility to maintain public health. In the Torah, in the book of Leviticus, we learn that people who suspected they had the mysterious disease Tzara'at got inspected, stayed quarantined in their homes until cleared, if sure they were infected actually left the camp, masked and shouting out their infected status, until it was safe for them to return. Now, when anyone could be infected without symptoms, the responsibility falls to each of us to protect our neighbors with physical distancing and with protective gear when physical proximity is absolutely necessary.

Judaism teaches responsibility to individuals as well. In the Holiness Code in Leviticus, we are told not only to love our neighbor, but also not to stand idly by as our neighbor bleeds. When someone is in crisis, or their health or life is in danger, we have a responsibility directly to that person. The congregation I serve is disproportionately made up of seniors, at greater risk from COVID-19. Far be it from me to risk any of their lives by calling the community together.

But this commandment also means helping the most physically vulnerable safely get the food and other essentials they need, and it means that we must look out for all our essential workers — our health care workers and first responders, our meat packers and grocery store workers and mail carriers, everyone who risks their own health and safety to provide us the necessities of life -- making sure that they are provided personal protective gear necessary to do their heroic work without needlessly endangering themselves and their families.

So in the Jewish community, we'll meet in large groups only virtually, wear protective gear, for example, when we work to provide food to those in need, and follow the spiritual disciplines of treating each day as a wondrous gift we are charged to put to good use and of being God's partners in redemption. These spiritual disciplines strengthen us to maintain physical distancing for as long as necessary to save an entire world.

### **Protecting yourself**

Remember, you control how you respond to COVID-19:

- Stay home as much as possible and especially when ill
- Keep at least 6 feet between you and anyone else
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your elbow
- Wear a face covering when you must go out for essential supplies

### **More information**

- [www.TogetherQC.com](http://www.TogetherQC.com)

- [coronavirus.iowa.gov/](https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/)
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>
- Flattening the Curve Resource: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america>

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