



Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2020

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – 5 new cases for a total of 291

Total deaths in Scott County: 8

Rock Island County – 5 new cases for a total of 595. 16 patients are in the hospital.

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 18

Today's call

A video recording of today's media call can be found at

<https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/covid19/news>

Relaxing of some restrictions

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

This morning, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds announced the relaxing of restrictions that were still in place of 22 of Iowa's counties, including Scott County. Beginning at 5 a.m. Friday, March 15, the following facilities will be allowed to reopen with restrictions (such as 50 percent capacity and social distancing, etc.):

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Restaurants● Fitness centers● Salons● Barbershops● Massage therapy establishments● Tattoo establishments● Campgrounds● Libraries● Social and fraternal clubs	<p><i>These are in addition to the following businesses that were allowed to reopen based on last week's proclamation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Malls● Other retail establishments● Medical spas● Tanning facilities● Race Tracks● Drive-in theaters
--	--

The following closures have been extended until midnight on May 27:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bars● Theaters● Casinos and gaming facilities● Senior citizen centers and adult daycare facilities● Amusements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Museums● Skating rinks/skate parks● Playgrounds● Swimming pools● Door-to-door sales
--	---

As a reminder, the relaxing of restrictions by the governor is not a mandate for businesses to open. Each business will review its plans and make its own decision on when they can open to the community in a safe manner. Please be patient as our community businesses make these decisions and implement steps as required to minimize the spread of any illness. We support one another in Scott County and we encourage you to support them in this time.

The role of public health in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been to provide information to the residents of our community to allow them to make the safest decisions possible for themselves and their families. We continue to do this as we enter this new phase.

We know the relaxing of these restrictions for many businesses may feel like light at the end of the tunnel for some of us. For others, the prospect of going back out at this time may feel too risky. We know for certain that we can't all just rush ahead. We ask all Scott County residents to take a slow and safe approach and make thought out plans for going back out and about as doors begin to open for a number of businesses in our community.

Remember to consider:

- whether or not you are ill
- whether or not you may be at additional risk due to underlying conditions or you are older than age 65
- whether the trip is necessary
- whether you can keep at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others
- and how you can keep your hands clean while out.

Again, the virus remains in our community and thinking about how you can minimize your risk when out and about before you leave home will help you and our community in the long-term.

Contact tracing expansion

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

You've heard us talk about contact tracing being the basis of public health infection control. It is tedious, time-consuming but important work. Since the beginning of this public health response, our dedicated team of 6 full-time infectious disease staff members and 2 volunteers from our Medical Reserve Corps have interviewed all confirmed 595 COVID-19 patients or their medical proxy. These discussions identify others who might have been exposed to the virus.

Only confirmed COVID-19 cases will be added to our county and state totals. However, our contact tracing team advises all household contacts to treat themselves as if they are confirmed positive – including going into self-isolation for 10-14 days, taking their temperatures daily and watching for symptoms.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has directed all health departments, including in Rock Island County, to expand contact tracing to household contacts and to log them into the state's

disease reporting system. This will take a significant surge in health department resources, but we have risen to that challenge. This week, an additional 17 health department staff members have been trained in how to do contract tracing. We are confident that existing staff can meet this state requirement. We also can call on our Medical Reserve Corps, if needed. The additional contact tracing will start Monday.

We will streamline some of our other programs, but we are maintaining curbside WIC coupon pickup at both our Rock Island and Moline WIC clinics. Our pregnant women and young children need us more than ever right now.

Expanded contact tracing will get us to the other side of this pandemic. Widespread contact tracing is one of the key six requirements the World Health Organization has laid out to being able to return to somewhat normal. We're working hard to do our part.

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

###