



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 14, 2020

**Current COVID-19 case count**

**Scott County** – 2 new cases for a total of 293

Total deaths in Scott County: 8

**Rock Island County** – 3 new cases for a total of 598. 11 patients are in the hospital.

One new death: a woman in her 90s who had been hospitalized

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 19

**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

One of the most noticeable closures for many in our community has been restaurant dining. Tomorrow, restaurants and other businesses will be allowed to reopen with a number of protective measures in place. We like to explain the requirements restaurants will be implementing to ensure the health and safety of patrons and workers. If you visit a restaurant in the upcoming days, things may look a little different. Restaurants are required to:

- Limit indoor and outdoor seating capacity to 50 percent of normal operating capacity. As we discussed yesterday, an interpretation issued by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals indicates that outdoor seating CANNOT be used to increase the seating of a restaurant above the 50 percent of rated capacity restriction. Indoor and outdoor seating as a total must not exceed 50 percent of the establishment's rated capacity.
- Limit group sizes to no more than six people.
- Arrange seating to provide a minimum of 6 feet between tables.
- Disallow customer self-service of food or beverages, including buffets and salad bars.
- Implement ways to ensure physical distancing of employees and customers and increased hygiene practices to help reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19.

While restaurants are required to have these measures in place, they will also rely on you to do your part by following these new requirements.

**Testlowa**

As we've mentioned, the Testlowa site is currently operating in Davenport. All residents are encouraged to complete an assessment at [www.Testlowa.com](http://www.Testlowa.com). If you have already completed

the assessment, but something has changed, you are encouraged to retake the assessment. The site also has frequently asked questions page to answer any questions you might have. <https://www.testiowa.com/en/faq>

### **Lower case counts**

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

We've been watching our COVID-19 case counts with a hopeful eye this week. Today, we reported three new infections. Yesterday, it was five, and Tuesday, we announced three. These numbers are a far cry from when our daily count regularly topped 20. Is it the beginning of a trend? It's too early to tell, but we can say that our main tools are working. Please keep:

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

We're hopeful that we have turned a corner because of the efforts you have made. Earlier this week, Gov. J.B. Pritzker shared metrics that show our region is on track to move to Phase 3: Recovery at the end of May. Phase 3 means employees from non-essential businesses can return to work; stores and gyms can open with capacity limits; and salons and barber shops can open with some restrictions.

Illinoisans are reminded that we still are under the governor's stay-at-home order until at least May 30. Please remember that when you consider going to Iowa. We don't want to interrupt all the progress we've made.

### **Ramadan of Peace**

Remarks from Lisa Z. Killinger, president of the Muslim Community of the Quad Cities

May the Peace of God be with you. We have just passed the midpoint of the holy month of Ramadan for Muslims around the world. We have been fasting from sunup to sundown for almost three weeks and have about 10 days remaining of our fast. This is traditionally a time of nightly fast-breaking meals and congregational prayers that can include 200-plus people at our local mosques. Ramadan is the most "connected," and spiritually rich time of year for Muslims. And then came COVID-19.

While we miss the physical closeness with our faith community members, we believe that with every hardship there is opportunity to draw closer to God. Ramadan 2020 will long be remembered as the year that the world got the opportunity to draw nearer to God through quiet solitude and contemplation. The word "Islam" means the "state of being at Peace through complete submission to God." Ramadan 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, is undoubtedly the Ramadan of Peace.

The Holy Quran states that whosoever saves a single life, it is as if they saved all of humanity. Islam has a rich history of using scientific discovery to help humankind. The roots of modern chemistry, epidemiology, anatomy, hospitals and libraries were all born of Islamic guidance and an appreciation for scholarly work. Over 1,450 years ago, Islam encouraged the quarantine of anyone who is sick, and restrictions on travel to and from areas where disease outbreaks were occurring. In this COVID-19 pandemic, SCIENCE can and should be as much of a guiding light as faith. We encourage faith and civic leaders to look to the experts in the fields of public health, immunology and epidemiology for evidence-based guidance on keeping our communities safe. After all, science is NOT the antithesis of faith.

The Muslim Community of the Quad Cities prays for humanity to draw nearer to God and their families, and to find peace in the new opportunities this pandemic has provided. This month let us look inward to find ways to share love, faith and support of those in need in our community (whether that “need” is for comfort, reassurance, food, shelter, financial support, or simply a prayer.) Let us all strive to be helpful in some small way during this uniquely challenging time.

### **Churches United**

Remarks from Dr. Melvin L. Grimes, executive director Churches United of the Quad City Area  
Churches United feeds 65 people Monday-Saturday in Bettendorf at two locations. Overall, 220 people are being fed.

Churches United 23 food pantries remain open throughout the Illinois and Iowa Quad-Cities.

Our domestic violence shelter and rental assistance program remain in operation.

There has been much discussion among the faith leaders, especially in Bettendorf and Davenport. The consensus is that a majority of churches will not be hosting face-to-face worship until mid-June to the first of July. On the Illinois side, there will be no face-to-face worship until Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s shelter-in-place order is eased.

The church where I pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church in Moline, will not begin face-to-face worship until at least June.

For more information on Churches United ministries, visit [www.cuqca.org](http://www.cuqca.org); call 563-332-5002; or email [info@cuqca.org](mailto:info@cuqca.org).

### **More information**

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