



Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2020

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – 10 new cases for a total of 322

Total deaths in Scott County: 8

Rock Island County – 4 new cases for a total of 652. 18 patients are in the hospital.

One new death: a woman in her 80s

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 25

Today's call

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

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

Next week's schedule

We anticipate having media briefings on Tuesday and Thursday next week, May 26 and 28.

Clarification

Remarks from Janet Hill, chief operating officer at the Rock Island County Health Department

First, I want to clarify something I said during Wednesday's media call. The Rock Island County Health Department is giving only addresses of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 to the Rock Island County Emergency Management Agency. All flagged addresses are purged from EMA's system after 14 days. We are not giving names of COVID-positive residents. We take our HIPAA duties seriously and give as little information as possible to protect the safety of our first responders.

Changes in Phase 3

Remarks from Janet Hill, chief operating officer at the Rock Island County Health Department

With the unrelenting nature of a global pandemic, you have to take wins when you can get them. Illinoisans are on target for a big win on May 29. Because you have been listening to public health advice and doing your part to slow the spread of COVID-19, the entire state is on target to achieve the metrics that Gov. J.B. Pritzker laid out for moving from Phase 2 to Phase 3 of his Restore Illinois Plan.

These are a summary of the changes the governor announced Wednesday:

- Bars and restaurants can open for outdoor dining with tables 6 feet apart.
- Health clubs and gyms can provide one-on-one personal training in indoor facilities and outdoor fitness classes of up to 10 people.

- Personal grooming, tattoo shops, and all retail stores can open with safety precautions and capacity limits.
- All state parks will reopen, including with concessions.
- Indoor and outdoor tennis facilities can reopen with safety precautions and capacity limits.
- Golf foursomes will be allowed. Carts also will be permitted with one person per cart, or one immediate household per cart.
- With a new 10 person gathering limit for all activities, boating or camping with up to 10 people will be permitted.

One caveat: We can't let up because there's still a week to go. A rise in infections throughout our entire region – roughly the northwest quarter of the state – can set us back. The governor told us all along that his plan allows for regions to move backward. Please continue to do your part to slow the spread by washing your hands frequently, wearing a facial covering while in public, keeping at least 6 feet between you and others, and staying home as much as you can and going out for essential trips. Keep these in mind while accepting your win.

Please be patient

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

The state of Iowa and many other states are taking a phased approach to reopening businesses and other daily activities in our community. Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has indicated that she is using a targeted approach to loosening restrictions based on public health data and trends that are identified. In the past three weeks, we have seen various phases of reopening in Scott County and expect to see more in the upcoming days and weeks.

As many in the community become anxious to be able to resume more daily activities, we would like to offer a word of caution to those considering holding events or reopening areas of our community that haven't yet been allowed by proclamation of the governor. We know league sports and other organized summer activities are beloved elements of summer in Scott County, but choosing to begin these types of activities prior to any announcements by the Governor would hold both health and legal risks should an outbreak be connected back to the activity.

Please be patient and know that there are more phases of our reopening yet to come. Public health and decision makers at the state level recognize the other areas of our community that many would like to see open up again. Know that those announcements will come, in time.

You can also expect additional guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health to help make plans for how to safely resume these types of activities once their reopening is announced. We continue to post guidance for businesses, restaurants, and other entities on our website and encourage community members to visit the site to learn more.

Welcome news in Illinois

Remarks from Tyler Power, director of government affairs at the Quad Cities Chamber

Gov. J.B. Pritzker's modifications to Phase 3 announced yesterday are welcome news and definitely a step in the right direction for our Illinois businesses.

All along the Chamber has been advocating for the entire Quad Cities region to open up in a safe, responsible, timely manner in accordance with CDC and health official guidelines.

While we are only eight days away from successfully meeting the metrics to move our region to Phase 3, we still need to follow the guidance of our local health experts so that we can hit that goal on May 29 and continue forward momentum.

Planning and preparation are critical tools that will help our businesses strike that balance between safety and the economic well-being of our region. Barring any resurgence, now is a good time for businesses to carefully examine their preparations in anticipation of re-opening when given the go-ahead.

For example, businesses may need to get in touch with product suppliers, implement new sanitation and social distancing practices, re-configure their layout, procure personal protective equipment, re-call staff, provide training on new safety protocols and much more.

The Chamber continues to make readily available resources on its website that provide best practices and suggested considerations to help businesses prepare to reopen safely when health officials give them the green light:

- [COVID-19 Resource Guide: https://quadcitieschamber.com/covid-resource](https://quadcitieschamber.com/covid-resource)
 - [Includes operational, promotional and financial resources](#)
- [Reopening Toolkit: https://quadcitieschamber.com/reopentoolkit](https://quadcitieschamber.com/reopentoolkit)
 - 51-page downloadable toolkit featuring general guidance for all industries, including tips on communicating with employees, cleaning and disinfecting workspaces and personal protective equipment (PPE) tutorials, as well as industry-specific considerations. Information was sourced and compiled from a variety of state and national health and industry resources.

In the coming days, IDPH will issue formal industry-specific guidance, particularly around workplaces and childcare, for business owners and employees in these and other sectors.

More information

- www.TogetherQC.com
- 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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