



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

May 26, 2020

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 341

Total deaths in Scott County: 9, up from 8 since the last briefing

Rock Island County – 4 new cases for a total of 684. 12 patients are in the hospital.

One new death: a man in his 60s

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 26

Today's call

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

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

This week's schedule

We anticipate having our second and final media briefing of the week on Thursday, May 28.

Please be patient

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

Last week, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds announced that testing through TestIowa has been opened to all Iowans, including individuals without symptoms or known exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual. This will increase the number of tests completed in our county. With that, we could also likely see an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases.

These expected additional positive cases, while a result of additional testing, remind us that the virus is still around and will remain around in our community in the upcoming weeks.

We also recognize that individuals may be making the choice to visit local restaurants and patronize businesses in the community. Because the virus is still circulating in our community, we could also likely see an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases as a result.

We each have a responsibility to our community to adapt our actions and make choices that will keep ourselves and others around us protected from COVID-19.

We ask that businesses in our community follow CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health COVID-19 reopening guidance when providing services.

We ask that members of the public make cautious decisions that have you participating in businesses in our community only when you can do so safely.

For those residents of Scott County who have recently been tested or may be tested through the now expanded TestIowa program and find themselves with a positive COVID-19 test, we have a few asks of you.

- First, please work with the local public health staff who will be calling to:
 - interview you
 - provide you information on how to keep your family members from getting sick
 - ask about with whom you may have been in contact; and
 - let you know when you can resume normal activities.
 - We are helping to investigate the illness. ***This is to protect our community from further spread.***
- Second, stay home. Even if you don't have symptoms, you can spread illness. Individuals are guided to stay home using the 10/3 rule: until they have been fever free for 3 days and it has been at least 10 days since symptom onset. ***This is to protect our community from further spread.***

COVID-19 isn't just a thing of our past. It's part of our present and our future. I leave you today with a few final words: make decisions carefully, continue to keep yourself at least 6 feet from others, and wash your hands.

Lower case counts, worrisome gatherings

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

We watched with both great hope and great fear over the holiday weekend. First, the good news: We've reported several days of lower COVID-19 positive tests. Even as testing becomes more available, we are seeing fewer positive results in Rock Island County. The positivity rate is one of the main measures Gov. J.B. Pritzker is using to decide whether our large region is moving to Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan.

So far, so good there.

Now the bad news: We worry about our residents not keeping vigilant. We worry about large gatherings with people who could be spreading the virus. This weekend, we saw huge gatherings in the media at a bar upriver from us and another down in the Ozarks. We also worry as we see case counts climb in rural parts of Illinois. Remember, 80 percent of cases are mild to moderate and some people have no symptoms at all. You might be young and strong enough to toss this virus aside, but what about the person standing right next to you at a backyard barbecue or the person you visit who wasn't even at the party? Will they be strong enough?

We can't let up. The Restore Illinois plan allows for us to move backward. On Friday, we're on track to be able to dine outside at Illinois restaurants. We're on track to get haircuts — I know I need one — and to do some shopping for fun instead of just essentials.

If we meet Friday's metrics, our next Restore Illinois goal line is 28 days away. Big changes come in Phase 4. If we achieve Phase 4, restaurants can open for limited inside dining. We can gather

in groups of up to 50. Schools and colleges can reopen in the fall. How Illinoisans react in the next 3 days — and the 28 days after that — determine whether we'll have a “real summer.” Please do your part.

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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