



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

May 28, 2020

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 351

Total deaths in Scott County: 10, up from 9 since the last briefing

Rock Island County – 2 new cases for a total of 688. 9 patients are in the hospital.

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>

Briefings starting next week

Briefings will be held on Tuesday and Thursday, unless important information must be conveyed on another day.

Most recover

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

During his daily coronavirus press briefing Wednesday, Gov. JB Pritzker reported that the Illinois Department of Public Health now is publishing a "recovery rate" on its website. He said that information is being given to reassure the public that a positive COVID-19 test is not a "death sentence" and that a vast majority of individuals who test positive eventually recover.

IDPH calculates the recovery number at 92 percent through a complicated formula. IDPH also breaks it down by county. This is how it looks in Rock Island County this week, though we must note that data are delayed and have missing responses:

- Asymptomatic: 5.94 percent
- Deceased: 3.44 percent
- Still symptomatic, at home: 47.97 percent
- Still symptomatic, hospitalized: 5.63 percent
- Symptoms resolved: 27.03 percent
- Unknown symptom status: 2.19 percent
- Unspecified other: 7.81 percent

We've told you all along that 80 percent of people who test positive for COVID-19 will have mild-to-moderate symptoms and then recover. All of us must worry about that 20 percent whose immune systems are not the strong enough to fight off the virus. And patients don't

know whether they are strong enough to fight it until they have it. Today, we reported that a woman in her 20s is hospitalized now because of COVID-19. Earlier this month, a man in his 30s died. I imagine neither of them considered themselves to be at substantial risk.

Indeed, about 500 of our 688 cases have been people younger than 60 who could have passed on the virus to others who aren't as strong as they are. This is why staying home as much as possible, keeping at least 6 feet between you and others, wearing face coverings, and washing your hands frequently remain the best defense against COVID-19.

Illinois moves to the more-relaxed Phase 3 status on Friday, but the virus isn't taking the summer off. Please remember everything you have learned about COVID-19 as we navigate our new normal.

Social impacts

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

Many of our messages about COVID-19 have focused on the health impacts on individuals and families in our community. However, in public health, we know that the environments in which we live, learn, work, play, worship, and age affect our health and ability to thrive.

Education, social aspects of our communities, neighborhoods and built environments, and economic stability — we call these the Social Determinants of Health.

We know our education system has been stretched and asked to do things it has never done. This has affected our children, educators, families, and employers.

We know the social services community, that acts as a safety net to many, has also been asked to stretch, serve more individuals in need of assistance, and in new ways.

Our neighborhoods and built environments have also changed due to the impacts of COVID-19. Many community groups have had to cease meeting or change how they support their members; community programs have had to pause operations; and many of our outdoor built environments that provide safe places for members of our community to recreate have had to stay closed in order to prevent the spread of virus.

We also know economic stability has been affected across our community: those who are most vulnerable; families dealing with layoffs; and businesses suffering from lost sales and loss of employees. The effects on economic stability influence transportation, employment, housing, and access to food.

In spite of the challenges we have experienced in all areas of our community, we have seen our community adapt and innovate to help support individuals, families, and businesses to make their way through this difficult situation. It's a long road, but we are in it together.

We are joined today by Mike Miller, president and CEO of the River Bend Foodbank. Mike is a champion for food access for our community, and we welcome his updates on how food access needs have increased and River Bend Foodbank is meeting those needs.

Help getting food

Remarks from Mike Miller, Remarks by Mike Miller, president and CEO of River Bend Foodbank

River Bend Foodbank has been deeply involved in COVID-19 response since the onset of the virus.

At the same time, the foodbank is experiencing a “triple threat” of factors that are affecting our work:

- Significantly increased demand
- Seriously interrupted supply chain
- Substantially inhibited operational methods (social distancing, no-contact food distribution, etc.)

Increased demand:

- Feeding America, the national network of food banks, estimates that food insecurity is up 46 percent nationally
- River Bend Foodbank estimates that to be just over 30 percent in our service area

Interrupted supply chain:

- Just as the public is seeing shortages in grocery stores, the Foodbank is receiving less donated food
- Which requires more purchased food to ensure a supply sufficient to meet the increased demand
- We normally distribute 70 percent donated food, 20 percent government, and 10 percent purchased
- In April, we were down to 56 percent donated, 29 percent government, and 15 percent purchased
- And normally, the purchased product is sold to agencies who pay whatever price we paid for it
- What we are currently purchasing to supplement donated food is being made available at no cost
- Which has a significant impact on our expenses
- Lastly, there are some foods you can't even buy, and others with very extended lead times
- The Foodbank is making every effort to maintain an inventory to continue meeting the increased need

River Bend Foodbank and food banks in general have responded to COVID-19 in a significant way:

- River Bend Foodbank distributed a record 1,825,284 meals in the month of April

- This was up 34 percent from the average over the previous 12 months
- The Feeding America food bank network has distributed 1 billion meals since the onset of COVID-19
- That 1 billion meals in 2 months compares to just over 4 billion meals over the previous 12 months

For anyone who needs food and does not know where to turn:

- Visit our website, riverbendfoodbank.org, and click on and click on “Need Food?”
- Please do not hesitate to get the help you need; that’s why we are here

People in need may also apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP right over the phone:

- This is the new name for food stamps, also called the Link Card in Illinois and Food Assistance in Iowa
- Illinois residents, call our partner Northern Illinois Food Bank at 844-600-7627
- Iowa residents, call the Iowa Food Assistance Hotline at 855-944-3663
- SNAP benefits have been increased, and there is even the option to use them online now

There are many people to thank for making this possible:

- Foodbank staff, carrying a much heavier load without the hundreds of volunteers we usually have
- Only 11 of our partner agencies are currently closed; this would be so much harder without them
- The companies and foundations who are supporting our skyrocketing expenses
- And an amazing number of individuals donating to the Foodbank, many for the first time ever

Anyone else who is able to help, please visit riverbendfoodbank.org and click on “Donate”

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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