



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

June 24, 2020

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 473, an increase of 55 since last briefing on June 18

Total deaths in Scott County: 10

Rock Island County – 11 new cases Wednesday for a total of 833

Currently in hospital: 5

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 28

Today's call

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

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

Rising case counts

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

In Rock Island County, we've been watching our rising COVID-19 cases with a worried eye recently. Case counts fell throughout May. Many days last month we reported just a handful of cases, and one day we had none. Since Sunday, we've reported 37 cases, and many of them are people in their 20s and 30s. Up until recently, most younger people who tested positive were front-line, essential workers. Recently, our contact tracing has revealed no such connection. Many patients became infected because they were being lax on social distancing and other public health advice.

While younger people are more likely to recover easily from the virus, people they come in contact with might not. As Illinois moves into a more-open Phase 4 on Friday, we caution people to remember all the safety guidelines we have been giving since the beginning of this crisis:

- Stay home as much as possible and especially when ill
- Wear a face covering when you are away from home
- 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

We're all tired of this virus, but it isn't going away anytime soon. Please do your part to keep our community safe.

Drive-through testing coming to Rock Island County

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

A community-based COVID-19 drive-through testing site will open in Rock Island on Monday, June 29 and is expected to remain available through Friday, July 10. Testing will not be available on Saturday, July 4.

The site is at the QCCA Expo Center, 2621 4th Ave., Rock Island. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Community-based testing sites are available to any Illinois resident to get tested, regardless of symptoms or other criteria. No appointment or doctor referral is needed at state-operated drive-through sites. Photo identification is required. Testing is available at no cost to the individual, but those with medical insurance may be asked to provide their insurance card.

Due to the demand for this service, there could be significant wait times. Please be patient.

Testing especially is encouraged for residents showing symptoms consistent of COVID-19. These symptoms include: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

This testing site is possible through a partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Rock Island County Emergency Management Agency, the QCCA Expo Center and the Rock Island County Health Department.



Worrisome direction

Remarks from Amy Thoreson, deputy director of the Scott County Health Department

At last week's briefing we mentioned that we reduced the number of press briefings due to the fact that the COVID-19 situation, in regards to messages and cases, was remaining stable. While this is still true, we are carefully watching an increase in the number of cases being reported during the last week.

While the beginning of June saw 2-4 cases being reported daily, during the last week, we are seeing 8 or more being reported daily, with the last four days in double digits. While we typically feel more comfortable analyzing data based on trends over 7-14 day increments, this bump or incline has our attention.

We continue to urge residents to consider COVID-19 when going about daily business and to take all of the precautions that Nita just mentioned.

Summer brings many opportunities for social gathering — please be smart, safe, and healthy as you make choices about the events you plan and the ones you attend. Future activities such as school resuming and the ability to visit family in nursing homes depends on keeping the level of community spread low. Remember, your choices impact not only you, but your family, your friends, and your community.

One last note: the Scott County Testlowa site located at NorthPark Mall in Davenport is still open for testing. In order for Iowa residents to be tested at this site, they need to log onto www.Testlowa.gov, complete an assessment, and schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are not accepted through this site.

Today we welcome back Dr. Louis Katz, our medical director at the Scott County Health Department. We appreciate his time today to help describe the current state of COVID-19 in our community. (See video at link under today's call heading for his comments.)

Blood supply low

Remarks from Kirby Winn, manager of public relations of Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center

Leaders of Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, or MVRBC, are calling on blood donors to step forward in support of the local blood supply. The need is being driven by increasing levels of activity at local hospitals and a high number of blood drive cancellations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Donors may schedule an appointment to give blood at an MVRBC Donor Center or mobile blood drive by calling 800-747-5401, scheduling online at www.bloodcenterimpact.org, or via the IMPACT mobile app (www.bloodcenter.org/app).

MVRBC projects it will lose almost 20,000 donations from cancelled blood drives between March and August of this year.

Hospitals are now supporting additional patient care options they had previously postponed, such as joint replacement and other elective surgery, and have seen ongoing use of blood components for trauma, urgent surgery, cancer treatment, and other critical care throughout the pandemic.

More information

- www.TogetherQC.com
- coronavirus.iowa.gov
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/restore>
- <https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/facilities/Pages/Covid19Response.aspx>

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