



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 532, an increase of 59 since last briefing on June 24

Total deaths in Scott County: 10

Rock Island County – 20 new cases Friday for a total of 861

Currently in hospital: 6

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>

Surging cases in Scott County

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

Over the last few months, I have been asked by family and friends if COVID-19 was keeping me up at night. For the most part, I have been able to say no. The community response to COVID-19 was good, our numbers did not climb at the rate of others, and most importantly while any death was too many, the number who lost their lives to this illness was not as many as in other places.

That was not the case last night. Yesterday, the positive case reports kept coming in like winnings on a slot machine. We have never seen anything like it and I have colleagues who have been here for over 40 years.

Yesterday alone, 40 cases were identified in Scott County and some cases are still being investigated. This is approximately 6 percent of the cases we have identified since our first positive case on March 21 and is equal to 15 percent of the cases in April, at our peak. At that time, COVID-19 was scary, but not real, too many in our community because it wasn't yet personal.

Well, it's real now. It's pretty hard to scroll through social media or check email without seeing a message of a store, restaurant, bar, fitness center reporting cases and their plans for cleaning. I would imagine that many in our community now know someone or have heard of someone with a positive case. As a community, we need to act now.

This surge in cases means that we need to act as a community to prevent further outbreaks from occurring.

Teens and young adults, I know that the COVID-19 situation has had been a real pain for you. Summer is about fun, hanging out with friends, and enjoying some freedom. But, your schools and colleges want to open up this fall, your jobs need you there and businesses want to stay open, your friends want to finish their baseball and softball seasons and play sports in the fall, and your grandparents want to see you. None of this is possible if you are sick or if there is a lot of community spread occurring. Please don't gather in large groups, when you do gather, keep 6 feet apart from your friends. Wear a face covering. If you are sick or a contact to a case, don't go out.

Parents, talk to your teens and young adults about staying safe. The average age of the cases reported since Sunday is 29, but one third of the cases have been in those age 22 and under. They have to understand how important it is to protect themselves and the community. What they do matters.

Businesses-this has been incredibly hard on you, but things aren't back to normal. Please review your policies and practices for keeping customers 6 feet apart and strongly consider recommending face coverings for individuals that visit you. If you have sick staff or contacts to cases, don't ask them to come to work. They need to be home for the isolation period. We will issue formal public health orders if we are not getting support from businesses.

Consumers, when you go to a business and it's crowded and you can't practice social distancing, don't stay. Support the business through curbside or delivery or come back later.

To all of us, now is not the time to back off. Keep your groups small, wash your hands. If you are getting tested for COVID-19, stay home until you know your results. If you are out and about, find a way to keep your distance from others. Wear a face covering if you can't keep your distance. We want to keep our community open and starting to recover. We want to keep our medical system from becoming overwhelmed. That will not happen if we do not make changes to our behaviors now. We can do this, but we have got to get it togetherqc!

A doctor's perspective

We invited Dr. Louis Katz, medical director of the Scott County Health Department, to share some information on this surge of cases that have taken place in the last week and more significantly yesterday and continuing into today. His comments are available at <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/covid19/news>

We must stay vigilant

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

Illinois moved to Phase 4 of Gov. JB Pritzker's Restore Illinois plan today because for the most part Illinoisans had been taking public health's advice to prevent further spread of COVID-19. Today, we are announcing 20 new COVID-19 patients. Since Sunday, we've had 54 test positive. Many patients became infected because they were being lax on social distancing and wearing

face coverings. Until there is an effective treatment or vaccine, those two actions – along with frequent hand washing – are the BEST ways we have to keep our community well.

We've said all along that the Restore Illinois plan allows us to return to Phase 3 or even Phase 2, based upon case counts and other metrics. Our residents' actions directly dictate the direction our state goes.

State testing site opens Monday in Rock Island County

In addition to our prevention advice, the best ways to get this virus under control are robust testing and contact tracing.

The Rock Island County Health Department has significantly increased our contact tracing capacity. Starting Monday, a community-based COVID-19 drive-through testing site for Illinois residents will open at the QCCA Expo Center, 2621 4th Ave., Rock Island. Testing is expected to remain available through Friday, July 10, except for the Fourth of July. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Face coverings are required at the testing site.

These anterior nasal swaps are available to any Illinois resident, regardless of symptoms or other criteria. No appointment or doctor referral is needed. Photo identification and contact information are 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.

Our best advice

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

- 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

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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