



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 16, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 1,203

Total deaths in Scott County: 10

Rock Island County – 20 new cases since Wednesday; total of 1,285

Currently in hospital: 15

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 30

Today's call

A video recording of today's media briefing can be found at <https://youtu.be/OV4EqABd4qo> and <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/covid19/news>

More hospital transports in Scott County

Remarks from Linda Frederiksen, executive director of Medic EMS in Scott County

We definitely have noticed an increase in not only positive COVID-19 patients, but also in ambulance transports for those patients.

From March 1-July 15, our dispatch center called 980 Isolation alerts, and transport 66 patients who were positive with COVID-19.

A monthly breakdown of these 66 transports shows:

- March: 7 transports, or 11 percent
- April: 21 transports, or 32 percent
- May: 8 transports, or 12 percent
- June: 8 transports, or 12 percent
- July 1-15: 22 transports or 33 percent

This is noteworthy because we've done a higher percentage of ambulance transports the first 15 days of July than in any other full month. If we keep this pace up for July and do an additional 22 transports, that will bring July's total to 44 transports, which would be 50 percent of overall transports (projected at 88) since March 1. This is not the direction we were hoping for.

All hospitals have requested that we have a mask or face covering on all incoming patients transported by ambulance, no matter what the reason for transport; we have started this week, and hopefully this might help with increasing case counts.

Grateful for community support

Remarks from Travis Noyd, deputy chief-EMS, Moline Fire Department

As the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Quad Cities region back in late February and early March, little was known about the virus. The daily question from responding fire personnel revolved around, “What do we wear to protect ourselves?” As time progressed, the standard PPE expanded from merely gloves to eye protection, masks, gloves and even gowns and face shields. Included with the expanding personal PPE was the need to place a minimum of PPE upon the patient, face masks, if tolerated.

The next piece of the COVID-19 puzzle was acquiring enough supplies to keep personnel protected and safe. Our regular medical supplier suffered difficulties fulfilling what used to be routine orders as all suppliers encountered identical shortages. Most PPE was filled through the help of Rock Island County Emergency Management Agency and UnityPoint Health — Trinity, along with generous donations from local businesses, such as face shields provided by John Deere manufacturing. Through all of this, Moline Fire has managed to keep staff stocked with adequate PPE. MFD has been putting masks on every patient for several months now.

As more was learned about the COVID-19 some medical procedures also had to be altered or withheld for the safety of responders. Protocol changes have increased stress for the responders as they alter care while producing consistent patient care as prior to the pandemic.

The Moline Fire Department has 18 confirmed COVID-19 transports since March 12:

- March: 2 transports, or 11 percent
- April: 10 transports, or 55 percent
- May: 2 transports, or 11 percent
- June: 3 transports, or 16 percent
- July: 1 transport, or 5 percent

Community support through donated items such as gloves and masks and enough food and snacks has been more than humbling. Local donations from business also has been incredible; they show the strength of the great community we proudly serve.

How we respond to daily calls is the obvious difficulty; however, how we train also has taken a hit. As cities and businesses closed so too did training, such as the combined training the Moline Fire Department was holding with the Moline Police Department. Joint Rescue Task Force training with Moline Police was halted in the middle of exercises as gathering limitations and close proximity rules prohibited drills. EMS training and continuing education has morphed, much like school, into online and remote learning as we are challenged to find effective training with limited “face” time.

Through it all, we continue to learn and modify our response and care. Currently, we have “settled” into a fairly normal pattern of care; however, we continue to remain diligent while protecting our patients and ourselves.

Regarding federal data reporting rule change

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

COVID-19 cases still will be reported to the health department because that is part of the Illinois infectious disease reporting law and how we start the vital contact tracing process. This process is done primarily through the Illinois’ National Electronic Disease Surveillance System, or I-NEDSS. There are about 80 infectious diseases that must be reported to public health. The most severe diseases, including COVID-19, require immediate reporting, while others require notification within 24 hours and still others within seven days.

Public health is not part of the change in how hospitals must now report their COVID-19 patient and resource use data. Hospitals never have been required to report bed and ventilator information to us.

Regarding federal data reporting rule change

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

We do not anticipate any changes to how we receive positive test results. Hospitals and private labs will continue to submit results to the Iowa Department of Public Health, and we will be notified through the state system. Hospitals do provide additional data on bed capacity, ventilators, and such things to the Iowa Department of Public Health, not directly to the local health departments.

Testing in Rock Island through Sunday

The community based COVID-19 drive-through testing site will remain at the QCCA Expo Center parking lot through Sunday, July 19. The site is at the QCCA Expo Center, 2621 4th Ave., Rock Island. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

About 4,000 tests have been administered since June 29 at the Rock Island site.

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.

Test results will up to four days to be reported, and patients will receive results, positive or negative, by a phone call. Personnel from the state lab will call tested patients twice from this phone number: 888-297-7208. No message will be left because of privacy reasons.

Patients can call back that toll-free number and talk to a person. They will need to provide their name and date of birth to receive test results.

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.

Test Iowa site in Davenport

The Scott County TestIowa 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.TestIowa.gov, complete an assessment, and schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are not accepted through this site.

More information

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

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