



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 28, 2020**

**Current COVID-19 case count**

**Scott County** – Total of 1,499

Total deaths in Scott County: 11

**Rock Island County** – 70 new cases since Monday; total of 1,491

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 30

**Remarks from Edward Rivers, Director, Scott County Health Department**

Since entering our community earlier this year, COVID-19 has created challenges, roadblocks, and difficulties for our community. None of these may be more complicated than those to the education sector. We invited area institutions of higher education to join us today to describe the actions they are taking to prepare for learning for the 2020-2021 academic year. We are joined today by St. Ambrose University and Eastern Iowa Community College. Thank you for being here and sharing with our community how you're overcoming these challenges.

**Remarks from Dr. Donald Doucette, Chancellor, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges**

**Fall Term Health and Safety Precautions**

The campuses of our family of colleges (Clinton Community College, Muscatine Community College and Scott Community Colleges) re-opened to provide in-person instruction and services to students for the Summer 2020 term. We re-opened gradually over the summer following the best guidance available from our public health officials, and experienced a very positive summer term. Students welcomed a return to campus. Our faculty and staff reported feeling safe on campus as a result of the health and safety measures we implemented, and both students and employees complied with recommended behaviors from mask wearing and social distancing to best practices in respiratory health and cleaning and disinfecting both private and public spaces.

We are applying what we learned during summer to the fall term and implementing the following health and safety precautions for the Fall term, which begins August 24, with strong emphasis on proper mask wearing and social distancing, including training in best practices for students and employees and monitoring and enforcement of required behaviors on campus.

In addition, the following measures will be in place:

- Training required of all students faculty and staff before returning to campus.

- Signing of pledges by students and employees to support the health of our communities and the containment of the COVID-19 virus by their behaviors both on and off campus. Enhanced cleaning of classrooms and heavily used spaces.
- Updated training for maintenance and cleaning staff in disinfecting procedures, including in the use of room-sized disinfecting devices.
- Health checks for employees and screening for students upon entrance to campus.
- Social distancing, supported by signs and floor markings and rearrangement of furniture and physical barriers, required of all.
- Physical rearrangement of classrooms to ensure 6 foot separation between students, with reduced capacity for classrooms and labs at 50 percent of capacity or less.
- Classroom procedures to support precautions, including attendance taking, adjustments to limit crowding during class changes, etc.
- Hand and surface disinfectants available throughout.
- Plexiglass separation barriers for high-volume front-line staff
- Students offered choice of three types of course delivery:
  - Classroom PLUS: Classes scheduled on campus, when conditions permit, supported by online management systems and use of remote technologies.
  - LIVE Online: Classes conducted using online management systems in combination with scheduled synchronous face-to-face class meetings delivered via Zoom technologies.
  - Fully Online: Online asynchronous classes delivered using online management systems, including online support services.
- Anticipate up to two-thirds of classes will be fully online or otherwise remote, with a third enrolled in on-campus instruction.
- Limit group and events sizes as recommended by local public health advice at the time and as permitted by social distancing, with required mask wearing.
- Increased education and information regarding available resources for COVID testing and medical care and appropriate responses to direct and indirect contacts with COVID positive cases.

EICC is committed to the health and safety of its students and faculty and staff and to the providing of critical education and training needed by our students to survive and thrive in the current pandemic environment. We have demonstrated during the summer term that we can provide a safe environment for education and training on our campuses, and we fully expect to be able to replicate that success in the fall term. Of course, we will carefully monitor and respond as needed to changing conditions in community health. We believe that obtaining the commitment to and compliance with health and safety behaviors—particularly those associated with mask wearing and social distancing—will be the key to our success by providing a safe environment and experience.

**Remarks from Craig DeVrieze, Director of Communications, St. Ambrose University**

Craig DeVrieze, Director of Communications, St. Ambrose University did not speak from prepared remarks. A video recording of today's media briefing can be found at

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

**More information**

- [www.TogetherQC.com](http://www.TogetherQC.com)
- [coronavirus.iowa.gov](http://coronavirus.iowa.gov)
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>
- <https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/facilities/Pages/Covid19Response.aspx>
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/long-term-care-facility-outbreaks-covid-19>

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