



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 2,277
Total deaths in Scott County: 21

Rock Island County – 32 new cases since Wednesday; total of 2,322
Currently in hospital: 14
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 67

Today's call

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

COVID-19 not taking the holiday weekend off

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

Labor Day Weekend usually means the last hoorah for summer. We fill the weekend with backyard cookouts with friends and family, Labor Day parades celebrating American workers, and the Rock Island District full of Grand Prix go-kart drivers and fans. Not this year.

We all want all of those things, but we can't let our guard down. We know what will happen if we do. After Memorial Day, we saw a spike in cases on both sides of the river that really hasn't fallen. We saw an even bigger surge after Fourth of July.

No one is saying that you can't have fun this weekend. But it does have to change. Have your party — just keep it small, outside, and physically distanced. Have everyone wear a mask.

Spend time walking or hiking in one of our region's beautiful parks. Go for a bike ride along the river. Get takeout from your favorite restaurant, and wear your mask when you go to pick it up. Find ways to have fun – but please do it with COVID-19 in mind. And, I'll say it again, when you're away from home, wear your mask.

Until we have a vaccine or an effective treatment, the virus calls the shots, holiday weekends and every day. Please do your part to take care of our community so that maybe next year we can do all of the things that make summer in the Quad Cities great.

Rising cases stress public health, health care systems

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

As Nita mentioned, we cannot afford to let Labor Day become a trampoline that propels our positive COVID-19 cases upward again. Our health care systems are stressed when an increase in cases leads to hospitalizations and ICU admissions. Our public health systems are stretched thin when the contact tracing load gets to 30-plus daily cases due to the time intensive interviews and the subsequent close contact follow-up calls that these cases generate. Our schools don't need the added workload and stress that is generated when additional cases in are found in families and eventually their facilities.

So how do we prevent this? We keep our Labor Day small and simple. We take a raincheck for next year's Labor Day. 2020 isn't like any other year and so the things we do in 2020 can't be like what we've always done. We keep using our prevention tools. Keep distance between yourself and others. Whatever it takes, wear your mask. Stay home if you aren't feeling well. Make smart decisions that won't put parents, siblings, kids, school groups, and social circles at risk of having to take a 14 day time out for a quarantine ... or worse yet, to get sick. We are one community and it takes each one of us to care for all of us.

Child abuse reports down, but that's not a good thing

Remarks from Brooke Hendrickx, director of development and communications at the Child Abuse Council in Moline

COVID-19 has placed increased stress and isolation on families. This increase in stress and isolation leads to increased risk of child abuse and neglect. Recently, we've seen a slight increase in referrals to our agency, but not all are due to abuse and neglect, some are parents seeking mental health treatment for their young children due to the effects of the pandemic.

In both Iowa and Illinois, we have seen a decrease in reports of child abuse being made statewide. This does not, unfortunately, mean that instances of child abuse have decreased, but the reporting of child abuse and neglect has decreased. This is due, in large part, to children still being isolated from mandated reports such as teachers, child care providers, coaches, and caregivers.

We are encouraging families and our community to remain vigilant and observant of the children and families in their lives. Physical abuse is the most identifiable — bruises and marks that are difficult to explain — but also look for those behavior changes: extreme shifts in behavior, sleep habits, eating habits, etc. Many changes in behavior can be attributed to the pandemic, but those same behavior changes can also be attributed to abuse and neglect. If you suspect abuse or neglect, please report to the appropriate state agency. You do not have to know exactly what happened in order to make a report, you simply have to suspect abuse and/or neglect has occurred and let the investigators and law enforcement do their work.

A child's mental health is important. Much like adults, children are feeling the stress that isolation and change in normal bring. As a community member, you can help by helping to reduce the stress felt by families — check in with neighbors and friends and do what you can to lessen the impact on families.

The Child Abuse Council is currently open and operating all programs. If you are in need of assistance or have any questions, please feel free to call us at 309-736-7170 or email us at info@childabuseqc.org and, if we are unable to assist, we will ensure you are linked with the appropriate community agency.

More information

- www.TogetherQC.com
- coronavirus.iowa.gov
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=2>
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics?county=Rock%20Island>
- <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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