



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 2,430
Total deaths in Scott County: 24

Rock Island County – 26 new cases since Wednesday; total of 2,597
Currently in hospital: 14
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 71

Today's call

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

Reducing risk of COVID-19 exposure

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

The Iowa Department of Public Health has announced an additional death of a Scott County resident. We are saddened to hear of the death of this member of our community. We know that the most vulnerable members of our community bear the burden of COVID-19, and we hope that we can work together to protect them from the spread of this virus.

As humans, socializing is in our DNA. This makes staying home, social distancing, and changing our behavior all the more difficult. We recognize that there may be members of our community who attended Labor Day gatherings. If you were in close contact with others, you may have been exposed to COVID-19.

If you fall into this category, please take steps to protect yourself:

- When you go out, wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet apart from others.
- Watch for any symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, trouble breathing, new loss of taste/smell, diarrhea, muscle aches, and severe headaches.
- Write down who you were with and where you went.
- Answer if the health department calls to tell you that you've been exposed.

If you feel sick:

- Stay home.
- Get tested. Call your health care provider or visit www.testiowa.com.
- Inform people you are with of your symptoms and/or test result.

Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund possible with community's generosity

Remarks from Kelly Thompson, vice president of grantmaking and community initiatives, Quad Cities Community Foundation

One of the most important things I'd love to say first is thank you—thank you to about 1,400 donors who have now made contributions to the Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund. It is because of these donors, and the resiliency and innovation of nonprofits that have received grants from the fund, that I am able to share this update. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

I also want to make sure to clearly say that we continue to raise dollars for the fund. As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic isn't over and our bi-state, regional community is feeling both the immediate and long-term impact of the pandemic. The fund continues to accept donations, accept applications for assistance, and grant dollars out to support recovery efforts. Please give online at www.QCCommunityFoundation.org.

To date, \$1.3 million has been raised for the Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund. About 1,400 donors have given to the fund. In partnership with the United Way of the Quad Cities and the Regional Development Authority, the Community Foundation has made 74 grant awards totaling just over \$1 million.

The grants have supported a wide range of recovery efforts on both sides of the river:

- Individuals in need like the nonprofit Alternatives for Older Adults, which provided direct support to seniors;
- Community services to help businesses like the grant to the Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to offer critical business education and support services to minority-owned businesses;
- Programs to engage children in learning like SAL Family and Community Services, which provided childcare for families with parents providing essential services; and
- Community action and safety information like WVIK Quad Cities NPR, to expand news and reporting to keep community members educated about the pandemic.
- And as you'd expect, significant grants for the key needs of health, food and shelter, and crisis financial assistance directly to households, through great organizations like Community Health Care, our community action agencies, Humility Homes and Services, The Salvation Army, and Quad Cities Open Network, which serves as a central pool of funds for crisis financial assistance to clients of over 50 local human services agencies.

We know there is more need. We continue to get grant requests. And we are committed to ensuring that the gifts that have been donated to the fund will be donated right back out to the community.

The data and science tells us this pandemic is not over. That means that we are a long way from recovery. The Community Foundation continues to welcome gifts to the fund. You can send a

check to the Quad Cities Community Foundation, or simply visit our website at QCCommunityFoundation.org and click the orange box at the very top of the page and give online.

We know that the power of what's happened in the recovery effort is best explained not in numbers—in dollars—but in the real resilience of the nonprofits, in the creativity and innovation they have mustered up to support the people and communities they serve.

To share the story of one of those now, I'm glad to introduce Laura Fontaine, Director of World Relief Quad Cities to talk about the work made possible by a grant from the Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund.

Funding integral to World Relief's mission

Remarks from Laura Fontaine, director, World Relief Quad Cities

World Relief Quad Cities is a nonprofit agency providing services to refugees and immigrants in Western Illinois and Eastern Iowa. Through partnerships with local churches, agencies, and the community-at-large, the agency provides financial, emotional, cultural, and spiritual support to refugees – victims of war and persecution around the world – who are being placed in the Quad Cities. Our integrated refugee program is designed to assist refugee families in obtaining self-sufficiency and independence through services including resettlement, economic development, employment training and placement, English training, and cultural orientation.

Our office began serving refugees in 1999 as a sub-office of World Relief Chicago and soon became its own entity. We have served more than 1,034 refugees in Rock Island County. These refugees have come from Southeast Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean. World Relief also continues to serve hundreds of secondary migrants who have relocated to the Quad Cities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, refugees and immigrants have been affected disproportionately due to:

- Language barriers make the rapidly changing information difficult to take in;
- Illiterate, needing visual/audio in native language;
- Accessing reliable information and social support; and
- Lack of transportation and technology.

Funding from the Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund allowed World Relief Quad Cities to hire three bilingual staff members in order to focus on community outreach and education of COVID-19. That team completed the World Health Organization certification on the Coronavirus Disease.

The outreach team focused on:

- Reaching out to ethnic community leaders;

- Contacting individual ethnic families;
- Developing a crisis communication;
- Distributing 150 COVID boxes to our families;
- Setting up a testing site with Community Health Care to provide free testing; and
- Providing written, visual, and audio information in native languages.

Overall numbers of COVID-19 patients in the refugee and immigrant communities are decreasing. Our work has allowed a greater understanding of the virus within our communities and we have helped residents take the measures to stop the spread.

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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