



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 1, 2020**

**Current COVID-19 case count**

**Scott County** – Total of 3,156

Total deaths in Scott County: 29

**Rock Island County** – 40 new cases since Wednesday; total of 3,197

Currently in hospital: 21

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 85

**Today's call**

A video recording of today's media briefing can be found at

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

**COVID-19 testing returns to Rock Island County this weekend**

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

A temporary community-based COVID-19 drive-through testing site will return to Rock Island County this weekend, Oct. 3-4. Testing will be in the parking lot of the TaxSlayer Center, 1201 River Drive, Moline. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

The testing site is available to any Illinois resident, regardless of symptoms. No appointment or doctor referral is needed, but photo identification is required. Testing is available at no cost to the individual.

**7-month COVID-19 battle**

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

Today we were notified of an additional death of a Scott County resident in the 61-80 age range. We send our sympathies to the family and friends on the loss of their loved one.

As the local public health agencies for our community, COVID-19 consumes our thoughts, day and night. From how to break through to those individuals in our community who have yet to follow our prevention tips, to how to better communicate data on the spread of the virus, to how to help our schools make extremely difficult decisions.

We constantly think about our staff and how to support them as they continue this 7-month, 7-day a week response to the pandemic. We continue to work on building and maintaining partnerships so that we are all working together to protect our community. We are evaluating our current response plans and are also developing plans to provide a vaccine that hasn't even

been fully developed, for priority groups that aren't yet fully defined. Really, at this point, the thoughts are too many to count.

However, these are the things we are most worried about at this point in the pandemic:

- Our cases are increasing and are mirroring the surge we experienced in July – what will it take to reverse this trend? What more can we do as health departments to make this happen?
- We are hearing residents and others who are voicing the opinion that since not many people have died, what's the big deal? How do we help individuals understand the impact of this new virus when it hasn't impacted them or their family and we don't fully know all of the long-term impacts for those that survive the illness?
- We learn things about this virus every single day and that allows guidance to change, so that it is based on the most current, accurate data and research. How do we help the community see this as a good thing rather than a frustration or lack of competency?
- Flu season is upon us and COVID-19 isn't going anywhere. How will we as a public health system and a health care system be able to respond to both unless we can get a better handle on the spread of COVID-19 in our community?

While all of these worries are very real for both Rock Island and Scott County Health Departments, this last worry about COVID-19 and the influenza season is a concern that cannot be appropriately responded to without the help of our entire community.

We have invited local physicians to join us on today's call to help the community better understand the magnitude of entering the influenza season while having the continued community spread of COVID-19 locally and nationally. Our panel will answer questions about both viruses and provide some information about steps we as individuals can take to protect ourselves and others.

### **Flu and COVID-19 panel discussion**

- Dr. Louis Katz, medical director, Scott County Health Department
- Dr. Bharat Motwani, infectious disease physician, Genesis Health System
- Dr. Daniel Arnold, physician, UnityPoint Health – Trinity

### **More information**

- [www.TogetherQC.com](http://www.TogetherQC.com)
- [coronavirus.iowa.gov](http://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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