



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 3,636

Total deaths in Scott County: 32

Remarks from Edward Rivers, Scott County Health Department director:

We are saddened to announce that, in the past few days, we have been informed of the deaths of three more Scott County residents. This brings the number of deaths to 32. Our hearts go out to the families and friends of these latest victims of the coronavirus pandemic.

As we have noted, deaths are a lagging indicator, occurring well after infection and development of the disease. Our case numbers in Scott County are rising — at an increasing rate. The average age of cases is also rising, indicating an increase of cases in the senior population. We have only more death to come, unless our community adheres to the self-protective measures we have advocated time and again. When you protect yourself, you protect your loved ones. When you don't take those simple precautions we urge, you put them at risk. It is likely that younger individuals, perhaps asymptomatic cases, are transmitting the disease to older family members with underlying health conditions, resulting in these deaths. Please, don't be the reason that your elderly family members contract COVID-19 and pass away.

Rock Island County – 32 new cases since Monday; total of 3,521

Currently in hospital: 20

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 93

Newly reported deaths a woman in her 80s and a man in his 70s, both of whom had been hospitalized, and a man in his 60s who died in a long-term care facility.

“We are saddened to report three COVID-19 deaths today,” said Nita Ludwig, administrator of the Rock Island County Health Department. “We offer our deepest condolences to their families and friends.”

Today's call

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

We must do better

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

Today marks seven months since we first talked with you about a new virus spreading in our country and community. Since that time, we have lived through a peak in April, with closure of businesses, restrictions on gatherings, and deaths of members of our community; and a higher peak in July, with over four times the cases, leading to higher hospitalization rates and an increase in deaths.

Well, we are in the same situation again, and there isn't an end in sight. We have increasing community spread of the coronavirus. The number of cases has equalled and is surpassing the July peak. Friends are infecting friends, who then infect their family members. Individuals are being hospitalized and dying. Restaurants and businesses are closing due to the financial burden caused by this pandemic. Schools are balancing in person instruction with the need to go online due to the number of isolations and quarantines of their students and staff. We all want this to end — but that requires us TO ACT.

We can do more.

We can do better.

We must do it together.

There are a variety of reasons why the coronavirus and COVID-19 have stopped our world in its tracks like nothing most of us have ever seen. The virus is new to humans and none of us have developed a biological way to fight off the virus when we are exposed. Also, there is no cure, no treatment, and no vaccine for this virus.

An often overlooked reason about why the impact of this virus is so dramatic is the fact that we have benefited from the development of vaccines to protect against many diseases that used to run rampant in communities and cause high numbers of deaths. Smallpox has been eradicated globally, polio has been eradicated in the U.S., and we have seen drastic reductions of measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough) and other diseases.

Vaccine is the great hope, but until then, we must take care of our community

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

Most of us today have not seen the disastrous and often deadly effects of diseases that spread rapidly in a community. Prior to vaccines, diseases such as polio, measles, and smallpox spread quickly throughout a community much as we are seeing with our current pandemic. Because we have not seen these effects firsthand, we do not have the lived experience to recognize the importance of stringently implementing the prevention measures public health is pleading with our community to take. We have become complacent because these diseases aren't rampant anymore.

Without a point of reference, as a community we have difficulty understanding the lasting impacts a virus such as COVID-19 can have on our family, neighbors, and economy. If we all had that experience, perhaps we would be more willing to handle things differently. We are now hindered by our own success at making once widespread deadly diseases a thing of the past.

Where does this leave us? We are waiting for one of three things to happen: a mutation making this virus less infectious or severe; a vaccine or treatment; or herd immunity caused by 70 percent of the community having contracted the virus. Mutations can result in a more infectious and deadly virus, as well. Many more will die before natural herd immunity is reached. The director of the World Health Organization recently said this option is “inhumane” and “simply unethical.” Vaccines and treatments remain the most hopeful option, but their development is slow. We must continue to learn from the experiences of the past and put all of our efforts into slowing the spread of the virus and protecting as many in our community from experiencing this illness as possible. That means masking up, keeping our distance, staying home while we are being tested for COVID-19, and staying home when you’re asked to quarantine or isolate. You might not get deathly ill, your family member might not get deathly ill, but there are many in our community that cannot afford to fight this virus, including those with conditions such as cancer, lung disease, and heart issues. If you don’t do it for yourself, do it for them.

We’re all in this together. Can we count on you?

More information

- **Mentioned in briefing today:** <https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health/post/do-masks-prevent-covid-19>
- **Mentioned in briefing today:** <https://togetherqc.com/2020/10/mask-mandate-local-initiative/>
- 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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