



## **Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 20, 2020

### **Current COVID-19 case count**

**Scott County** – Total of 4,047

Total deaths in Scott County: 36

“The Iowa Department of Public Health has reported three additional COVID-19 related deaths of Scott County residents: two adults older than 80 and one person between the ages of 61-80. Our deepest sympathies go out to the families and friends of these members of our community,” said Edward Rivers, director of the Scott County Health Department.

**Rock Island County** – 49 new cases since Monday; total of 3,837

Currently in hospital: 32, highest total to date

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 97

### **Today’s call**

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

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

### **Willingness to protect each other**

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

Our community is 32 weeks into the COVID-19 pandemic. Iowa is making national headlines for the surge in cases that we are seeing. This is not how we want our region or our community represented.

At the heart of being a Midwesterner, a Quad Citian, is the innate willingness to help others. Our community has shown this over and over and over again.

The 2019 Mississippi Flood showcased the best of our community, with residents helping one another, regardless of their personal beliefs, by sandbagging to help prevent the impending flood.

The derecho of 2020 found neighbors coming out of the woodwork to help remove downed trees, offer food and drink, or just support one another, often people they didn’t even know. All to help their fellow neighbor.

However, this same willingness to protect our fellow man is faltering during this pandemic. Wearing a mask costs nothing. But it pays dividends in the spread of disease that it prevents. Not hosting or attending gatherings of people is simple — and it WILL SAVE LIVES. In public

health, we are mystified why the same willingness to support and protect others with SIMPLE THINGS isn't automatic and universal.

Some residents in our community are finding ways to gather safely. Some are truly taking what we know about preventing the spread and putting it into practices as they learn to live life during a pandemic. However, this is not universal in our community.

We know two truths. These are NOT Democratic truths or Republican truths. They are scientific and public health truths.

1. If we don't universally wear masks and social distance, this pandemic will drag on for an extended amount of time.
2. If we universally wear masks and social distance, we can get a handle on this pandemic and begin the process of recovery.

### **When is enough, enough?**

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

We get asked over and over, why is our community experiencing such a surge?

The easy answer is that not enough of our community are doing the scientifically proven things that would slow the spread – masking, distancing, and quarantining and isolating when appropriate. And as we become more lax at doing these scientifically proven things, our cases begin to rise. Quickly. Unfortunately, there is not one singular issue that is causing this surge. If there was, there would be one simple solution that would immediately end this pandemic. We've gotten ourselves in this far and it will take work...and us working together...to end it.

First, we must agree as a community that health and safety must be the only thing that matters when we are talking about ending this pandemic. Politics and personal opinions do not. Masks are not political — masks are science. Masks protect.

Second, we must all decide, when is enough, enough? Many in our community haven't changed course:

- as our children have been forced to not be in school a majority of the days in a week and are missing social interactions and other important moments to help their development.
- as we've seen outbreaks in our long term care facilities and have watched the elderly in our community suffer from loneliness and missing their beloved visitors.
- when we experienced 10 deaths in the QC in one week.
- as businesses have closed and layoffs have impacted our workforce and families.
- at the pleading of the experts in our community.

When is enough, enough?

If you haven't been masking and social distancing up until now, please do. There's no shame in changing course and choosing today to begin to do your part to protect others.

We know you can't lock yourself up for the next year — so choose lower risk activities to participate in and implement the precautions that we have available.

We can do this, we must do this, and we must do it now.

### **More information**

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