



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

Dec. 1, 2020

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 11,369

Total deaths in Scott County: 75

12 deaths since last briefing on Nov. 24

Rock Island County – 66 new cases since Monday; total of 8,511

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 75

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 151

3 newly reported deaths: a man in his 90s who had been in a long-term-care facility and 2 men in their 70s who had been hospitalized.

Total deaths: 151

Today's call

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

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

Testing, symptom and isolation reminders

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

The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends getting tested five-seven days after large gatherings. Today is five days after Thanksgiving.

Free community-based testing will be available in Rock Island County this weekend: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the TaxSlayer Center, 1201 River Drive, Moline. Any Illinois resident can get tested at the site, regardless of symptoms. However, if you start to experience symptoms before the weekend, please call your health care provider to be tested sooner. Iowa residents can seek testing through TestIowa.com. Other providers can be reached through DoINeedA-COVID19test.com.

As a reminder, COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, chills, body aches, sore throat, loss of taste and smell, nausea/vomiting and diarrhea. If you feel symptomatic, please stay home except to seek medical care — and call your provider first — and isolate yourself from others in your household.

Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and can recover at home without medical care.

Do not leave your home, except to get medical care.

While you recover:

- Take care of yourself. Get rest and stay hydrated. Take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen, to help you feel better.
- Stay in touch with your doctor. Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you have trouble breathing or have any other emergency warning signs, including a spiking fever or bluish lips.
- Tell your close contacts that they might have been exposed to COVID-19. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 48 hours (or two days) before the person has any symptoms or tests positive. By letting your close contacts know they might have been exposed to COVID-19, you are helping to protect everyone.
- If you are told that you are a close contact, you must quarantine for 14 days from your last exposure to that person.
- If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, someone from public health may call you. However, because of the rapidly increasing cases in the Quad Cities, we are concentrating on reaching out to newly infected people to help slow down the spread of the virus.
- We could be calling from several numbers: 312-777-1999, which is the number from the state's contact tracing software; numbers that begin 309-558, which are health department extensions; or numbers that start 309-737, which are our department's cell phones.
- Contact tracers from the Iowa Department of Public Health will be calling or texting from a number that starts with the 515 area code.
- Please pick up and help us keep our community as safe as possible.

Delicate public health-economic balance

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

One of the most difficult aspects of this pandemic response has been seeking the delicate balance between the public health and economic needs of our community. When public health-focused measures have been implemented, our businesses and local organizations have been challenged. When public health-focused measures have been relaxed, public health has suffered but our businesses and local organizations have been given some breathing room to try to recover. There is no perfect balance between the two. However, as residents and community members, we can help support a better balance between these two by supporting both: following public health measures and also supporting our local community through your eating and shopping habits as well as financial giving. While our partners on the call will address how your financial support can make all the difference, I would like to remind you that it's possible to do so safely during a pandemic.

When supporting our local businesses during the holiday shopping season, follow these simple but important tips:

- Stay home if:
 - You have been diagnosed with COVID-19 (symptoms of COVID-19).
 - You are waiting for COVID-19 test results
 - You may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Call ahead to your favorite local business to ask about online purchase options or curbside pickup.
- Avoid crowds
 - Go shopping during hours when fewer people will be there (for example, early morning or late night).
 - Stay at least 6 feet away from others while shopping and in lines.
 - Avoid locations that are especially crowded and where long lines form.
- Wear a mask in public shopping locations.
- If possible, use touchless payment (pay without touching money, a card, or a keypad). If you must handle money, a card, or use a keypad, use hand sanitizer right after paying.

How we support others during the tough times is what makes us stand apart. I know that we in the Quad Cities can make a huge difference by supporting our local organization and businesses this holiday season.

Nonprofits need our help

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

Today is Giving Tuesday, a day when we are all encouraged to give to the causes and nonprofit organizations we care about.

The nonprofit sector is a crucial part of our Quad Cities community and economy. They make up 10% of our local workforce, in everything from arts to basic needs to education to health and beyond. They provide critical support to all of our local workforce and residents, help make this a vibrant community with great quality of life, and as we saw this year, form a network of crisis response when disaster strikes.

This year, support of Quad Cities nonprofits on Giving Tuesday and throughout the coming months is even more important. A [recent survey by Wastyn & Associates](#), in partnership with [Disaster Ready Quad Cities](#) and the Quad Cities Funders Forum, found the following about Quad Cities nonprofits as of the end of October:

- Three-quarters of Quad Cities nonprofits are still operating at or *above* pre-pandemic capacity – with the same or greater services as before.
- Two-thirds of Quad Cities nonprofits have brought in less money than usual this year – both because of less brought in through fundraising and through decreases in other sources of revenue, like earned income, contracts, or endowment income.

- Nearly 60% of Quad Cities nonprofits have reduced staff through furloughs, layoffs, or attrition.

To sum up, Quad Cities nonprofits are doing more with less. Like many other Quad Cities organizations, they continue to respond in an effective, innovative, and nimble manner, adjusting to provide their services – and new services – to our community in a safe and responsive way. A few examples:

- River Music Experience developed Curbside Concerts and Curbside Carols to continue to bring live music to audiences, even if it's in their driveways.
- Humility Homes and Services, The Salvation Army of the Quad Cities, and other homelessness services providers shifted from congregate shelters to hotels, with dozens of volunteers from faith communities delivering meals every day for months. (More volunteers are needed!)
- The River Bend Foodbank and its many partner food pantries have distributed far more meals than any previous year, and also brought more fresh dairy and produce to Quad Citizens by taking advantage of the federal Farmers to Families program.
- For each of these examples there are hundreds more ways that Quad Cities nonprofit organizations have showed up for us all this year, like they always do. We don't want them doing more with less – we want to support them to do their best work.

Many of these efforts have been supported by the Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund at the Quad Cities Community Foundation, which was activated in March for this disaster and since then has made more than 100 grants totaling more than \$1.5 million. We're so grateful for the generosity that donors showed in giving to that fund, and the need continues – we've received nearly \$4 million in requests since March, and continue to grant from the Fund almost every week to organizations identifying ways that those dollars could help them better serve our community in this pandemic. We continue to invite gifts to the Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund, and the Quad Cities Community Foundation will be here to help our community through the current crisis and the long-term recovery.

Everyone in the Quad Cities can help on this Giving Tuesday and in the months to come! There are many things you can do:

- Give to the [Quad Cities Disaster Recovery Fund](https://qccommunityfoundation.org/qcdisasterrecovery) (qccommunityfoundation.org/qcdisasterrecovery) at the Quad Cities Community Foundation to continued much-needed long-term recovery efforts or the [Quad Cities Community Impact Fund](https://qccommunityfoundation.org/communityfunds), (qccommunityfoundation.org/communityfunds) that allows us to always be here to respond to pressing needs and promising opportunities.
- Give to the nonprofit organizations you care about – give more than usual if you have the ability. Monetary gifts which allow them the flexibility to adapt and respond as needed are incredibly valuable.
- Spread the word — share your favorite nonprofits' requests for funding with your friends and family and tell them why you care about that cause, even if you can't give right now.

- Volunteer – there are many safe ways that you can volunteer for organizations right now – sometimes even from home! Reach out to your favorite organizations and ask how you can help, or visit the United Way of the Quad Cities [Volunteer Hub](https://unitedwayqc.org/volunteer-opportunities) (unitedwayqc.org/volunteer-opportunities).
- Advocate for larger-scale solutions, like inclusion of nonprofits in state or federal relief legislation, protection and expansion of social safety net programs to keep more people from falling into crisis, and of course follow the guidance of public health officials to help bring our community cases back down while we wait for vaccines to become available.

Local businesses need our support, too

Remarks from Paul Rumler, president and CEO, Quad Cities Chamber

Recently, the Quad Cities Chamber launched Keep It QC, designed to bring awareness to the importance of supporting and buying locally because of the tangible economic benefits for our region. This includes Gross Regional Product growth, more tax funding to support infrastructure and quality-of-place projects, support and creation of jobs and increased regional attractiveness for companies looking to expand or relocate to our area.

In mid-November the Chamber launched the Keep It QC gift card and rewards program as part of the Keep It QC movement. The program is a way for consumers to buy local or to gift local to others by purchasing cards redeemable for use at any Quad Cities merchant that accepts Visa® – retailers, restaurants, salons and spas, boutiques, sports and entertainment, hotels, and more. Purchase at: <https://thecommunitygiftcard.com/keepitqc>.

More information

- <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-mitigation-plan>
- https://governor.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Summary%20of%20Enhanced%20Public%20Health%20Measures_final.pdf
- <https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health/post/do-masks-prevent-covid-19>
- <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>

###