



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 17, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 13,236
Total deaths in Scott County: 128
8 deaths since last briefing on Tuesday

Rock Island County – 103 new cases since Wednesday; total of 10,036
Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 64
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 207
1 newly reported death: a woman in her 70s who had been living in a long-term-care facility.

Today's call

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

Vaccine one of our pandemic-fighting tools

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

We are grateful for the excitement and interest that is building about the COVID-19 vaccine as doses continue to be given in our community. While the supply is currently very limited, we know that more will continue to make its way into our community each week, giving us the opportunity to ensure more and more of our healthcare workers are protected. We hope there will be this much excitement as we all get our turn to get vaccinated.

This vaccine is giving us a light at the end of the tunnel. However, the vaccine cannot do this alone. It is one of the tools we have in our pandemic-fighting toolbox. The COVID-19 vaccine will work in conjunction with the wearing of masks, social distancing, and handwashing as critical to slowing the pandemic.

It is important for our community to understand that once someone begins to build immunity from the virus after they have received two doses of the vaccine does not mean that will immediately be able to run around mask-free and throw caution to the wind. It will take having large numbers of individuals vaccinated before we can even begin having conversations about getting to relax on social distancing and the wearing of masks. For now, whether you get the vaccine in the upcoming days or not, you will still need to mask, social distance, wash your hands, and stay home when sick. You know...the usual...the things you have been hearing on repeat for nearly a year. We do not say this to trample on the excitement the vaccine brings.

However, we want to make sure our community understands that the vaccine is just one tool that will get us where we need to go.

Insight into vaccine

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

While the vaccine is just one tool, it is an exciting tool based on scientific development and research. We know that giving you the facts about safety, how well it is expected to work, and the ingredients that make it up aren't the only things that will help increase your understanding and comfort with the vaccine. Hearing from those who have gotten the vaccine gives insight into what you can expect should you take the vaccine in the upcoming days.

We are very fortunate to be joined today by Joel Moore, a Registered Nurse and Director of Care Coordination for Genesis Health System. Joel was one of the first healthcare workers to receive the vaccine in our community and has been very willing to share his experience for the benefit of others. On behalf of both of our health departments, Boards of Health, and staff, we would like to take a moment and thank Joel as well as the countless number of other frontline healthcare workers in our community for their tireless commitment to caring for community during this critical time. You're critical partners in this pandemic response and we are grateful for your support of our community.

And now, we will hear directly from Joel!

Personal vaccine experience

Joel Moore, a registered nurse and Director of Care Coordination for Genesis Health System, did not speak from prepared talking points. Please refer to the video link at the top of this media release.

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>

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