



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

Jan. 5, 2021

**Current COVID-19 case count**

**Scott County** – Total of 14,384

Total deaths in Scott County: 153

6 deaths since last briefing on Dec. 30

**Rock Island County** – 49 new cases since Tuesday; total of 11,045

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 39

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 271

5 newly reported deaths: a woman in her 90s who died at home; a woman in her 90s who had been living in a long-term-care facility; and a woman in her 70s, a woman in her 50s and a man in his 60s, all of whom had been hospitalized.

**Today's call**

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

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

**Vaccination clinic planned next week for Rock Island County healthcare workers**

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

After months of waiting and hoping, we finally have a vaccine to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that many of you want it now, but the mass vaccination process will take months. Right now, vaccine supply coming into Rock Island County is limited.

All hospital and emergency medical service staff members who participated have received their first dose. Now, we are working to give those people their second dose while moving to the next phase: non-hospital healthcare staff.

Our first mass-vaccination clinic for non-hospital healthcare workers only will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or until supply runs out) on January 12 at the Greater Quad City Auto Auction, 4015 78th Ave., Milan. Vaccine supplies at this point are limited. Masking and social distancing requirements will be enforced.

Only healthcare workers with appropriate identification are eligible to receive the vaccine at this clinic. Healthcare workers as defined by the Illinois Department of Public Health include:

- clinicians, (nurses and nursing assistants, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants)
- physical/occupational/speech therapists
- respiratory technicians
- dentists and dental hygienists
- pharmacists
- plasma and blood donation staff
- morticians
- home health workers
- school nurses
- optometrists
- COVID-19 testing staff
- dialysis staff
- urgent care workers
- corrections nurses/aides
- vaccine clinic workers
- group home residential staff
- environmental service and reception staff at congregate care facilities
- congregate care surveyors
- hospice and palliative care staff
- community health workers when acting as health aide or health translators.

We expect to have clinics at the auto auction most Tuesdays, as vaccine supply allows, until every resident has an opportunity to take the vaccine through this phased approach outlined by the IDPH.

In addition, we are working out partnership details with pharmacies in the county to offer vaccines, as well as Community Health Care to offer weekend hours. More information will be available soon.

When healthcare workers have been vaccinated, we will move to Phase 1B and have directions from the state health department on which groups will go next. These include:

- Residents 75 and older
- Frontline essential workers, defined as those workers who are essential for the functioning of society:
  - firefighters and law enforcement officers
  - corrections officers
  - food manufacturing/processing and agriculture workers
  - U.S. Postal Service workers
  - manufacturing workers
  - grocery store workers

- public transit workers
- teachers and support staff
- daycare workers

We know we have given you a lot of information here, and more details will be released as they become known. Please keep watching through our media partners, our social media pages, our websites and togetherqc.com. And please be patient – we are at the beginning of this months-long marathon.

### **Vaccination clinics for healthcare workers begin this week in Scott County**

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

Similar to Rock Island County, we are also hosting our first community based vaccination clinic for healthcare workers in Scott County this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The healthcare workers getting vaccinated this first week are being scheduled by appointment and include unaffiliated provider and convenient care offices, other healthcare providers working almost exclusively with the elderly and other at-risk groups, and emergency responders.

As more vaccine is allocated to Scott County, our office is reaching out directly to healthcare provider offices when vaccine is available for them and assisting them in getting staff scheduled to be vaccinated at our community based clinic. We recognize there are a number of healthcare workers in our community that have yet to be vaccinated. We have not forgotten the dental, vision, therapy and other providers in our community. We have plans in place to vaccinate you all as enough vaccine is received in Scott County.

We recognize this process is slow! Vaccine supply is very limited. It will be the biggest driver of how fast this process will work and it is something we have no control of locally. There is no set amount of vaccine that comes to Scott County each week. Some weeks, there may be no vaccine that comes to Scott County.

**We now have a message for you, our media partners.** We have tried our best to be available and reliable with sharing information with you every week for the last 10 months. Now we have an ask of you. For many in our community, their main source of information is their local news stations and newspapers. We are getting many, many questions about whose turn it is to get vaccine and how to get signed up as a member of the general public.

We would like to ask you to focus on sharing vaccine rollout information, especially to the older populations in our community. While we can update our websites, social media pages, and messages to our partners as much and as often as we want, you hold the key to the messages that many in our community still rely upon.

Please let the community know that you will share information when it is available. Let the community know that unless they are in part of the healthcare worker group, they do not need

to do anything at this time. Let them know that they can rely on your organizations, articles, and broadcasts to be timely and be accurate.

We are finding that many in our community are listening to the national news stories and might be missing the rich, local information on COVID-19 that they can find right here in our community. We are doing our best to encourage people to pay attention to the LOCAL news for LOCAL information. We would appreciate your support in this – as you hear national news stories on the COVID-19 vaccine or other topics, please reach out to us so we can help share what this means locally.

For now, our messages for the broad community is “please be patient!” The Scott and Rock Island Counties Health Departments WILL let you know when it’s your turn. Make sure to check our websites and social media pages and watch our local news stations and newspapers – updates will be shared there regularly!

Thank you for sticking with us through the last 10 months and as we move into the next phase of the COVID-19 response! We are grateful for your partnership!

### **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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