



Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 7, 2021

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 14,609

Total deaths in Scott County: 153

Rock Island County – 85 new cases since Wednesday; total of 11,178

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 43

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 274

Today's call

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

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

Illinois updates Phase 1B group

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

We've said all through our COVID-19 response that information is changing quickly. We saw a great example this week. On Tuesday, we shared then-accurate information regarding the state's phased vaccine plan. On Wednesday, Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced changes to the plan. This is what we know now, but it is subject to change.

First, this is what stayed the same. Phase 1A as outlined by the Illinois Department of Public Health remains only people who work in healthcare and staff and residents of long-term-care facilities. We expect this phase to last through January and into February.

The Rock Island County Health Department will hold a socially distanced drive-through COVID-19 vaccination clinic **for healthcare workers only** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Greater Quad City Auto Auction, 4015 78th Ave., Milan. Vaccine supplies at this point are limited, and we will attempt to keep you informed on our website, richd.org, and our Facebook page with how many doses of the vaccine will be available.

Because we are a bistate community, you can receive the vaccine in either the state in which you work or where you live when it is your turn.

Only healthcare workers with work badges or a letter outlining their role on their clinic's letterhead are eligible to receive the vaccine at this clinic. RICHD leaders expect to have clinics

at the auto auction most Tuesdays until every resident has an opportunity to take the vaccine through this phased approach outlined by IDPH. Masks and social distancing requirements will be enforced.

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

There will be no out-of-pocket cost to receive the COVID-19 at a RICHD drive-through COVID-19 vaccination clinic. Other providers may charge an administrative fee that could be billed to insurance, Medicare or Medicaid.

This is what changed on Wednesday. When healthcare workers have been vaccinated, we will move to Phase 1B. We will use the same drive-through facility at the Greater Quad-City Auction in Milan. Phase 1B is now:

- Illinois residents 65 and older (different from federal recommendation of age 75 and older)
- Frontline essential workers, defined as those workers who are essential for the functioning of society. This is not an exhaustive list:
 - First responders: Fire, law enforcement, 911 workers, security personnel, school officers
 - Education: Teachers, principals, student support, student aides, day care worker
 - Food and agriculture: Processing plants, veterinary health, livestock services, animal care
 - Manufacturing: Industrial production of goods for distribution to retail, wholesale or other manufacturers
 - Corrections workers and inmates: Jail officers, juvenile facility staff, in-person support staff, inmates
 - U.S. Postal Service workers
 - Public transit workers: Flight crews, bus drivers, train conductors, taxi drivers, para-transit drivers, in-person support, ride-sharing services
 - Grocery store workers: Baggers, cashiers, stockers, pickup, customer service
 - Shelters and daycare staff: Homeless shelter, women's shelter, adult day/drop-in program, sheltered workshop, psycho-social rehab

IDPH has yet to set groups beyond Phases 1A and 1B. We expect Phase 1C to include food-service staff and other essential workers, but we don't know how IDPH will define this group of essential workers. We will tell you when it does.

As we have said repeatedly, COVID-19 a rapidly evolving situation. Information for Illinois residents could be different from what is announced for Iowa residents. We will share

information as we learn it. Please keep watching through our media partners, our social media pages, our websites and togetherqc.com.

Phase 1B has not been outlined in Iowa

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

We receive many inquiries from the community every day about how to register to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We would ask the public to understand that, during Phase 1A, vaccine in Iowa is only allowed to be administered to healthcare workers and long-term care residents, at the direction of the Iowa Infectious Disease Advisory Council. That direction includes prioritizing health care providers according to their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccination clinics that are taking place in Scott County today, tomorrow, and Saturday are for healthcare providers only. They are not open to the public. They have been scheduled by appointment for Phase 1A healthcare workers identified as being next in line. We are working directly with healthcare provider offices to schedule their staff for this clinic. This will continue for additional provider groups as more vaccine becomes available.

The establishment of priority groups is due to the limited amount of vaccine available. Advisory councils at the state and federal level are making extremely difficult decisions in order to best protect the healthcare infrastructure that cares for us all and to help reduce the deaths that are disproportionately occurring in long-term care settings.

This does not mean that the elderly, persons with underlying health conditions, and our many critical workforce sectors will be left out. They are identified as priority groups and we expect them to be vaccinated before the general public. We can't tell you when that will happen because those decisions have not yet been made at the state level. We know that the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that states include essential workers and individuals 75 years of age and older in Phase 1B. Iowa's advisory committee will decide the order in which they are immunized, and if subgroups will be identified.

We have been advised to expect that the supply of vaccine in Scott County will be very low for the next few months. Phase 1B will begin when Phase 1A is completed. Additionally, the Iowa Department of Public Health has indicated that all counties in the state will be moving from phase to phase together.

While we cannot control the supply of vaccine, we can provide information to you about how things are moving in Scott County. Look for updates from our local news stations and newspapers, on our website, and on our social media pages. We want to share this information with you as much as you want to receive it!

Please be patient with us – we have a dedicated staff who are doing their best they can with lots of moving pieces! We are committed to protecting our community and can't do it without you!

More information

- 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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