



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2021**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Positive tests total: 18,300
Total deaths in Scott County: 210

Rock Island County – 10 new cases since Monday; total of 12,879
Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 14
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 304

Today's call

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

More than 1,000 vaccinated today

Remarks from Janet Hill, chief operating officer, Rock Island County Health Department

Today, we completed our largest COVID-19 vaccination clinic to date. We vaccinated more than 1,000 people at the TaxSlayer Center in Moline, including 200 Rock Island County residents 60 and older who registered through our partnership with Alternatives in Moline.

Right now, Alternatives is taking calls only from Rock Island County residents who are 60 and older. Those residents who qualify can call toll-free 833-382-1314 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. Those who are younger than 60 and need help registering for an online time slot are urged to try to register themselves or contact any human service agency they already have worked with in the past.

Once you have a registered time slot either through Alternatives or through our online registration link, we ask that you come no more than 15 minutes before your time slot. Once you arrive, please tune your car radio to 89.7 FM. You will be told when people in your time slot can enter the building over this radio frequency. By following these instructions, we will avoid a crush of people entering the building at the same time. We are still in a pandemic, and social and physical distancing are crucial to help us contain the spread of the virus — along with wearing a mask and washing your hands frequently.

We are happy that about 1,000 people today started to build immunity for this virus. We also know that many of you are waiting patiently for your turn. More vaccine, including the Johnson

and Johnson vaccine that received emergency use authorization late last week, will be coming into our community and more opportunities soon will become available.

Special 65+ clinic set for Wednesday; all appointments filled

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

Today, our staff are preparing for a large COVID-19 vaccine clinic that is scheduled for tomorrow at our Sears Clinic location. The 65+ clinic is by appointment only – our staff and our community partners will administer all 1,170 doses of Pfizer vaccine we received through an extra allocation from the Iowa Department of Public Health.

We have spent the majority of the last month instructing the community to expect vaccine for the 65+ community to be given by our larger health systems – Genesis, UnityPoint Health – Trinity, and Community Health Care. This is still the case! We have been providing 1,900 of the 2,250 doses in our allocation to them. These partners continue to contact their patients to schedule appointments. CASI is continuing to help connect people with no provider or with independent providers to vaccine as well. Tomorrow's clinic is an additional allocation of vaccine for the 65+ community. We welcome any vaccine we can bring into the county. We know people remain eager to be immunized – the 1,170 slots were mostly filled up within the first 20 minutes of the clinic being opened. The performance of our Sears clinic indicates that it is capable of vaccinating large numbers of people efficiently and safely. I thank our dedicated staff, Scott County Emergency Management Agency, the Scott County Information Technology department, our healthcare partners, and emergency medical providers for implementing such a great process at our clinic.

However, there are still thousands of people eligible in Phase 1B who have still not been vaccinated. We will continue that work through our weekly vaccine allocations, allocations to local pharmacies, and any other vaccine allocations to our community.

We also welcome the news this weekend that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was given Emergency Use Authorization. The state of Iowa is expecting to receive its first shipment of Johnson & Johnson this week. They will be targeting the use of this vaccine to the Tier 2 groups: certain food / agriculture / manufacturing / and distribution workers. 17 Iowa counties have been identified as receiving the first allocations of Johnson & Johnson. We have not yet heard when it will make its way to Scott County.

Dr. Louis Katz, our medical director, continues to dedicate many hours listening to federal EUA meetings to ensure that he has access to the data and discussions on the safety and efficacy of these vaccine candidates. He is here to provide information on this new tool in the fight against COVID-19 illness.

Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Dr. Louis Katz, medical director of the Scott County Health Department and infectious disease physician, did not speak from prepared remarks regarding news of another vaccine becoming available in the fight against COVID-19. A recording of today's briefing is available at <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/covid19/news> .

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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