



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2021**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Positive tests total: 18,348
Total deaths in Scott County: 211

Rock Island County – 19 new cases since Wednesday; total of 12,924
Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 9
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>

Vaccine supplies increasing in Rock Island County

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

As soon as the first COVID-19 vaccine shipments arrived in the Quad Cities back in December, we've asked for your patience and said that your time will come. Flash forward almost 3 months, and almost 30,000 people have gotten their first dose and more than 9,000 have received both doses.

Now, we've gotten word from the Illinois Department of Public Health that we soon could see up to 6,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine coming into Rock Island County every week starting later this month. This is wonderful news for so many reasons. First, the J&J vaccine is a one-dose vaccine that offers 100% efficacy against severe illness and death after 49 days and 85% before then.

Plus, we will continue to get regular and increasing shipments of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in Rock Island County. More appointments are becoming available at our healthcare and pharmacy partners. For the first time since the start of the pandemic, we feel hopeful that the end is in sight.

Vaccine supply is becoming more plentiful, but we are not to the point of offering consumer choice. You heard Scott County's Medical Director Dr. Louis Katz say on Tuesday's media briefing that he would take whatever vaccine is available to him and that you should, too. Please listen to the medical experts and take the vaccine that is offered to you.

Retiring director grateful for partners, support

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

Yesterday, Scott County hosted a vaccination clinic at our Sears site and with the help of a number of community partners, were able to vaccinate 1,170 individuals in the Phase 1B 65+ priority population. The clinic was well run and moved us that much closer to a community protected from COVID-19.

The extra allotment of Pfizer vaccine from the state of Iowa was received and administered within 2 days due to the process we have in place at Sears. We are hopeful that this additional vaccine in our community is a sign of better things – more vaccine – to come.

For many of you, your time to get the vaccine is coming closer. We encourage you to be ready to get the vaccine when it becomes available to you. Our website continues to have information on the various vaccines. Please visit for more information and frequently asked questions.

As we continue to encourage eligible individuals to be vaccinated in our community, we ask that they be thoughtful as they schedule their appointments. Because Johnson & Johnson vaccine has not yet made its way into Scott County, any vaccine you receive right now requires a 2nd dose, 3-4 weeks after the first. Plan how you will receive that 2nd dose by asking questions before you are vaccinated. This will be important in ensuring you get the full level of protection available by being fully vaccinated.

On a personal note, this will be my last COVID Coalition press briefing. I am retiring as of tomorrow, March 5.

It seems so very long ago, but it is actually one week short of a year since we had our first COVID press briefing, on Friday, March 13th. Since that time, you, our media partners, have been a critical element of our pandemic response. You have ensured that information about the risks of contracting COVID-19, interventions to prevent infection, and, most recently, announcements about our vaccine clinics were communicated, so the health and safety of our community were protected. Thank you for your attendance, participation, and support of our response.

I would also like to thank the Scott County Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Health. Throughout my tenure, and especially in the past year, they have enabled us to protect the community in ways that would not have been possible otherwise. Their wholehearted support has benefited the community's health and safety immeasurably.

Our community partners have also been a critical element in the department's success. The work of public health is eased when there are dedicated collaborators to ensure that access to medical services are available to all, population health programs are supported, and a community focus is employed, regardless of physical or political boundaries.

I have valued my time in the Quad Cities, and I am sad to leave the friends I have made, and relationships I have enjoyed.

In parting, I bid you goodbye, good luck, and wear a mask, avoid crowds, and wash your hands.

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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