



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2021**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Positive tests total: 18,843

7-day positivity rate: 9%, compared to 4% last week)

Total deaths in Scott County: 224

Total vaccinated: 22,700 Scott County residents fully vaccinated (69,100 total vaccines given by Scott County vaccine providers)

Rock Island County – 21 new cases since Monday; total of 13,237

7-day positivity rate: 2.4% on March 20, down from 3% on March 13 (most recent data)

Regional positivity rate: 3.6% on March 20

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 12

Region 2 hospitalizations: 6 days of COVID-19 patient increases

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 306

Today's call

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

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

Getting ready for your turn

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

We told you from when the very first vaccine was administered in Rock Island County – back on Dec. 16 – that everyone's turn would come. It arrives April 12.

On that day, every Illinois resident age 16 and older will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Already, 50,000 Rock Island County residents have received at least one dose, and almost 18,000 are fully vaccinated. This week, higher education staff, government workers and media members became eligible. Next Monday, food and beverage workers, construction workers and religious leaders will get their shot. Then on April 12, everyone gets their turn.

Our clinic at the Camden Centre in Milan is ready for this influx of people. The team of health department staff and volunteers, 63 National Guard soldiers, and more than 20 contract nurses can vaccinate up to 6,000 people a week, depending on vaccine supply. Add to this total slots available at our healthcare and pharmacy partners and you can start to see that the end of this whole ordeal.

Getting your COVID-19 vaccine will protect you and those you love from this dangerous and deadly disease and help us all get back to normal. The vaccines are safe and effective, and millions of people of all races and ethnic backgrounds have safely received their shots.

All Illinois residents age 16 and older can get their vaccines for free at the Camden Centre in Milan. To make an appointment, find registration links at richd.org or the Rock Island County Health Department's Facebook page. The health department must rely on a state vendor to create the links for each clinic day. We all are frustrated that links have not been available on a set schedule. We urge you to check our Facebook page and website frequently. We posted links for the rest of the week this afternoon.

Starting next month, the state of Illinois is expecting more than 1 million doses coming into our state each week. Thousands of them will come to Rock Island County.

We know that not every person age 65 and older has been able to get vaccinated yet. We are getting through the waiting lists created through our partnership with Alternatives for the Older Adult. CEO Kathy Weiman and her team have been shepherding thousands of older Rock Island County residents through the Milan clinic and will continue until every person on their list has been fully vaccinated.

Much of registration process has been online, which is difficult to some in our community. Please consider helping older residents and those without consistent internet access to sign up for the vaccine. 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-Thursday. Once the 60 and older population has been vaccinated, Alternatives will transition this support over to the QCON-Hub (a collaboration of more than 80 partner agencies). This contact information will be shared in the coming week.

Your shot is coming. Please take it.

Moving toward all adults getting access to the vaccine

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

Last week, Gov. Kim Reynolds announced that beginning April 5, all Iowa adults would be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, IF vaccine supply increases as expected between now and then. If we find that on April 5, all Iowa adults are eligible, this will be a good sign. It will mean that there is confidence that the vaccine supply that will come into the state each week will be increasing to a level where it will begin to be more readily available. This is something we have been waiting for since the first vaccines arrived in Scott County in December.

However, as we have seen with all of the vaccine eligibility transitions that have taken place over the last three months, just because all adults may become eligible on April 5, does not

mean every adult will be able to get a dose of vaccine of April 5. It will take weeks and maybe months for supply to fully arrive, vaccine appointments to be created and scheduled, and for vaccines to be given. The April 5 date that was announced is approximately two weeks away and we know a lot can take place between now and then. So we in public health remain cautiously optimistic about what the next two weeks holds.

If you're a member of the "general public" that will potentially become eligible, the only thing you need to do right now is finalize your decision about getting vaccinated. The way we see it in the public health world, you are going to be eligible for a safe and very effective lifesaving tool to help protect yourself and your family, friends, and community. You choosing to get the available vaccine will take us another step closer to the end of this long and exhausting pandemic. It will mean our futures can be filled with gatherings, events, and faces that can show a smile when greeting each other.

If you're still on the fence, we encourage you to talk to others who have been vaccinated. Ask them their why – why did they choose to be vaccinated against COVID-19. There's a good chance some of their reasons may become your reasons, for saying yes to a vaccine when it's your turn.

For all of us, it is still important to do the things that we can to keep each other safe and healthy: wear a mask, keep your distance, wash your hands, and stay home if you are sick. We have seen our decline in COVID-19 cases level out and slowly begin to rise again. We do not want to go backward while there is so much hope and excitement for the future.

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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