



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 13, 2021**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Positive tests total: 20,122
Total deaths in Scott County: 234
Vaccine doses administered in Scott County: 108,000

Rock Island County – 46 new cases since Monday; total of 13,860
Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 25
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 311
One newly reported death: a woman in her 90s who had been living in a long-term-care facility
Vaccine doses administered in Rock Island County: 76,581

Today's call

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

Reminders of how to get vaccinated

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

Today is the fifth-week anniversary of the opening of the National Guard-assisted vaccination clinic at the Camden Centre in Milan. The dedicated soldiers, contract nurses, and health department managers, staff and volunteers have combined to give thousands of vaccines. Today, we are giving some updates and reminders about the clinic in Milan.

First of all, you probably have heard about the nationwide pause in administering the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. A little later, Dr. Louis Katz will help us understand why the FDA and CDC recommended this drastic move. The Rock Island County Health Department had planned to give the J&J vaccine at Thursday's clinic in Milan. We now will be giving the Moderna vaccine. Those who signed up for Thursday's clinic will receive their first dose of Moderna. All appointments previously made will be honored.

The Milan clinic is an appointment-based clinic. Walk-ins usually will be turned away because we have the number of doses planned out each day. You must bring your vaccination card to your second-dose appointment. You could be turned away without it. You can come back later that same day, and we will honor your appointment.

To sign up for an appointment, visit richd.org or the Rock Island County Health Department's Facebook page to get a link to the clinic date you need. You will need to present your QR code at the clinic. Once you see the appointment calendar notification, you must scroll down and hit the submit button. The appointment is not made until you click on the submit button. You will know you have made an appointment when you receive your QR code. You also must make an appointment the same way for your second dose. You don't have to get your second dose at the Camden Centre. If another day or time is available and within your second-dose window, take it. Our partners also have weekend and evening appointments.

As a reminder: the optimal window for Moderna is 28-42 days. For Pfizer it's, 21-42 days. Most of the time, the Moderna vaccine will be offered Monday-Wednesday, with the Pfizer vaccine on Friday and Saturday. Thursday could be either vaccine, depending on availability. We ask that you pay attention to the title of the registration link. We usually only have one brand of vaccine on hand at a time. You should receive both doses of the same brand of vaccine.

The Pfizer vaccine is the only one given emergency use authorization for teens age 16 and 17. A parent or guardian must give verbal consent for the child to receive the vaccine. Pfizer has asked for emergency use authorization for children as young as 12 to receive the vaccine, but that approval has not been given yet. We expect the same request will come from Moderna in the coming weeks.

Before arriving for your appointment, please make sure that you eat something and drink water before getting your vaccine. Having a meal before the vaccine could help those with a history of fainting, and water prevents dehydration.

To date, almost 77,000 vaccine doses have been administered in Rock Island County, and more than 31,000 people are fully vaccinated. Our pharmacy and healthcare partners also have appointments available throughout the area. To find locations, visit coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location or vaccinefinder.org.

While most everyone is focused on getting vaccinated, we can't forget that we still are in the middle of a pandemic. Widespread vaccination is what will get us to the other side of the pandemic, but it is only one of our tools to prevent more infection. Even if you have been fully vaccinated, you must continue to wear a mask and keep 6 feet from others in public. We also all must continue washing our hands – and this is good advice in or out of a pandemic. We know you're tired of the pandemic. We are, too. Please help us end it by getting vaccinated as soon as you can. We have many appointments available this week at the Camden Centre, and our pharmacy and healthcare partners have open slots, too.

One last tidbit, Vaccine Variations, our partnership with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra starts tomorrow. These world-class musicians will perform twice a week for one hour each time at the Camden Centre. The last performance is scheduled for May 20. We hope these performances will bring some much-needed joy during these anxiety-filled days.

Pfizer and Moderna appointments available at pharmacies, healthcare providers

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

To date in Scott County, the vast majority of the 108,000 doses of vaccine provided has been Pfizer and Moderna vaccine and we have been expecting that to continue. We are continuing to encourage members of our community to access the vaccine that is most available to them. Our local healthcare and pharmacy partners continue to have appointments available through their Pfizer and Moderna vaccine supplies.

We know that coronavirus variants continue to circulate and we are still seeing a higher number of cases than we were seeing in more recent weeks. While we keep one eye on the next steps for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, we must keep our other eye on what we can control in this pandemic – and that is wear a mask, social distance, wash our hands, and stay home when we are sick.

Now we will turn it over to Dr. Katz to discuss the pause in Johnson & Johnson vaccine administration.

Context regarding Johnson & Johnson vaccine pause

Remarks from Dr. Louis Katz, infectious disease physician and medical director of the Scott County Health Department

- CDC and FDA have received reports of 6 cases of a very rare blood clotting disorder temporally associated with getting the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. It consists of blood clots, especially in veins in the brain (cerebral venous sinus thrombosis or CVST), in combination with low platelet counts, the small cell fragments that initiate and support normal blood clotting.
- FDA, CDC, both the Iowa and Illinois departments of public health, and both the Scott and Rock Island County health departments all recommend “in an abundance of caution” pausing use of the vaccine for two reasons grounded in our commitment to safety and transparency.
 - To be sure we understand the nature of this process and its relationship to the vaccine.
 - To alert the public and health care providers to the unique nature of these events and to assure that appropriate evaluation and treatment are offered.
- The duration of the pause is not known, but is anticipated to be days, not weeks at this very early point. The CDCs independent expert panel, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet in emergency session tomorrow at noon local time to review the data available and recommend next steps.

- These 6 cases have occurred among almost 7 million recipients of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, but none have been reported in over 110,000,000 million doses of the Moderna and Pfizer mRNA vaccines.
- This reaction looks very similar to a small number seen with the AZ vaccine in the EU but it is not yet proven that they are identical.
 - The patients seem to be making an immune response that activates their platelets causing spontaneous clotting.
 - Both the AZ and J and J vaccines are adenovirus-based vaccines and there is speculation this may be related to the adenovirus.
 - The usual treatments for blood clotting, especially heparin, may be very dangerous to these patients, so consultation with an expert is critical if the diagnosis is suspected.
- Women between 18 and 48 have been affected so far, 6-13 days after receipt of the vaccine jab. No other risk information is yet available. One patient has died, and one is in critical condition.
- Individuals who have received the J and J vaccine in a time frame from 7-21 days or so, need to be alert to symptoms that suggest blood clots.
 - New pain and swelling in the legs, especially if it is on one side.
 - New shortness of breath or chest pain.
 - New headache or other neurological symptoms
 - If these symptoms develop shortly after receiving J and J vaccine, they should call their healthcare provider with the information and the date they received the vaccine.
- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines do not cause this reaction.
- We remain committed to broad vaccination of the population to control the pandemic and people should get the first vaccine for which they are eligible as soon as they can.
- Social and physical distancing, masking, hand hygiene and limiting travel remain essential non-pharmacologic interventions to prevent COVID-19.

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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