



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 3, 2021

Recording of today's call

A video recording can be found at <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/covid19/news>

ICUs full with younger patients than earlier in pandemic

Remarks from Dr. Kurt Anderson, chief medical officer, Genesis Health System

There are 29 COVID positive patients in Genesis hospitals at GHS today

- Davenport — 21 positive, 6 awaiting test results
- Silvis — 8 positive

Regarding recent transfer of a patient to a Milwaukee hospital: All available ICU beds in the region were occupied. It didn't have to do with staffing. There were simply no ICU beds available locally. The ICUs continue to experience high census.

ICU capacity: ICUs are full partly because people with the Delta COVID variant are sicker and often younger than we experienced earlier in the pandemic. They are requiring longer stays. The units aren't only full because of COVID patients. There are patients with other conditions needing that level of care. It seems like a little more than half the ICU beds have COVID patients. What the public can do is get vaccinated.

Testing: Genesis is testing weekdays in Iowa and Illinois. However, a lot of tests are being ordered, which slows results of tests, especially those tests send to outside lab partners.

96% of UnityPoint-Trinity COVID-19 patients have been unvaccinated

Remarks from Dr. Toyosi Olutade, chief medical officer, UnityPoint-Trinity

- The COVID-19 situation remains critical as the highly contagious Delta variant spreads in our community.
- As you know, hospitals across the country are seeing a significant increase in the number of patients who require hospitalization.
- As of this morning, across our four campuses, we're caring for 44 COVID-19 patients, 17 of which are in the ICU.
- Overall, we're seeing younger people who are sicker and staying longer.
- The vast majority of people with severe COVID illness are unvaccinated.
 - Since December 2020 when a vaccine became available, we've seen nearly 1,000 COVID patients and 96% of them were unvaccinated.

- We're also seeing an increased need to care for non-COVID patients.
- The recent surge in COVID-19 patients combined with an increase in seriously ill patients has stretched our limits in the ICUs.

COVID-19 Testing wait time and availability:

- Limited rapid testing for patients who require more immediate results for their care.
- Results typically are expected within 36-48 hours. Important to isolate while you wait for results to protect others.
- UnityPoint Health® - Trinity encourages the use of online scheduling options to visit a UnityPoint Clinic® Express or Express Care location to be evaluated by a medical provider for a COVID-19 test. This is a faster and more cost-effective option for patients than a visit to the emergency department. If you have a medical emergency, please dial 911. Online wait times available online under Get Care Now.

UnityPoint Clinic – Express Care Locations

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. | Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Moline: 109 19th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265 | (309) 779-7050
 SouthPark Pointe: 3904 16th Street, Moline, IL 61265 | (309) 581-7610
 Bettendorf: 3415 53rd Street, Bettendorf, IA 52722 | (563) 742-4350

UnityPoint Clinic – Express Locations

Monday - Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Bett Plex: 5185 Competition Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722 | (563) 888-5660
 Duck Creek: 1417 Kimberly Road, Bettendorf, IA 52722 | (563) 949-4503

When to be tested:

- People who have [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- People who have had a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
 - [People who are fully vaccinated](#) should get tested 3-5 days after exposure, and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
 - People who are not fully vaccinated should [isolate](#) and be tested immediately after being identified, and, if negative, tested again in 5–7 days after last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop during isolation.
- People not fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine.
- People who have [tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered](#) do not need to be tested as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- [Earlier testing](#) means more treatment options may be available for you. Monoclonal antibody treatment is effective in keeping COVID-19 positive patients out of the hospital, but it needs to be administered early on in the disease.

ICU/Bed capacity:

- We are in constant communication with regional facilities about bed and staff availability.
- As a health system, UnityPoint Health has the ability to move staff and resources where they are needed most.
- Our first commitment is to the patients in our community.
- As always, we will evaluate other patients on a case-by-case basis as we have staff and resources to provide safe, quality care to those in need.

Choices have consequences

Remarks from Amy Thoreson, director, Scott County Health Department

Between our public health departments, private providers, and pharmacies, vaccine opportunities are readily available. We could offer clinics at every location, at any time of the day, but that isn't what is going to make the difference for our community at this critical time. Right now, the tides can only change if each and every one of us makes a choice to be a part of the solution.

We need more people to get vaccinated. We know that 58% of our population has already taken this step, more are taking it each day after having conversations with health care providers, reviewing the ongoing evidence that is supporting the benefits of the vaccine, seeing what can happen to someone they care who has been tremendously impacted by COVID, and all other kinds of reasons. But we need more to take this step. Our current situation is proof that without more vaccinated individuals, there will be more waves of this pandemic.

We need more individuals to choose to wear a mask when indoors and in large gatherings. CDC guidance for communities with high levels of transmission is that everyone wear masks in indoor settings. We all were excited this summer to see masks on clearance at stores, to see the faces of coworkers and customers, church friends, and summer school students. We will get back to that, but for right now, I urge everyone to wear face coverings when indoors. This is even more important for those who are unable to be vaccinated or choose to be unvaccinated.

I was always taught that I had choices, but that choices have consequences, too. I choose to put my seatbelt on every time I get in a car, not because I plan to get in a car crash, but because if I would be in one, I want to have a better chance of not being injured. I choose to brush my teeth twice a day to prevent cavities; I may still get one, but not as many as I may if I don't brush. I choose to wash my hands after touching raw meat or using the restroom to prevent spreading the bacteria I may have on my hands to others and myself. These are all strong public health measures that we use every day without thinking much about it. Vaccine and masking are public health measures proven to protect the community.

It's time to make a choice, but choices have consequences ... for ourselves, our families and friends, our health care providers and system, and our community.

Priority remains getting Quad Citians vaccinated

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

The QC COVID-19 Coalition's top priority remains protecting our residents from COVID-19 with safe, effective, and long-lasting vaccines. Vaccines are the most powerful tool we have against COVID-19. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, you should seek your shot right away. Our hospitals are filling up with unvaccinated patients. The vaccines would have prevented these patients from getting seriously ill. Across the country and here at home, almost every person becoming seriously ill, being hospitalized and those dying are not yet vaccinated. You just heard the physicians on this call describe the situation at our local hospitals. Across Illinois, 0.02% of hospitalized patients have been fully vaccinated. The vaccinated are not the ones getting seriously ill.

In all, 175 million Americans have been fully vaccinated, and no long-term side effects have been detected. In fact, no non-live vaccine has ever been shown to cause side effects years later. The COVID-19 vaccines are non-live. The COVID-19 vaccine leaves your body within 72 hours. Your body then makes antibodies after the vaccine – and these antibodies are what protect you. Serious side effects following any vaccination – including for COVID-19 – are extremely rare. In contrast, COVID-19 patients have experience long-term health problems after getting sick, including life-altering fatigue, difficulty breathing, loss of taste and smell, memory problems, and severe joint and muscle pain, among others.

The Rock Island County Health Department offers vaccine clinics twice a week at our office, 2112 25th Ave., Rock Island. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are given each Tuesday, and Pfizer is offered on Fridays. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. both days. If those days don't work for you, find your shot at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

More information

- www.TogetherQC.com
- coronavirus.iowa.gov
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccinedata?county=Rock%20Island>
- <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=2>

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