



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 19, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 9,412

Total deaths in Scott County: 66

5 deaths since last briefing on Tuesday and 12 in the last week

Rock Island County – 116 new cases since Wednesday; total of 7,249

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 69

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 123

3 newly reported deaths: a man in his 80s who died in a long-term care facility and two women in their 70s who had been hospitalized.

Today's call

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

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

Experiences of a seriously ill COVID-19 patient

Interview notes for Jeff Deppe

Age: 51

City: East Moline

Occupation: Secretary treasurer and field representative for Laborers Local 309 and Rock Island County Board member, District 9

Where he believes he became ill: He always wore his mask in public, but he mistakenly took it off during a county budget meeting. He now knows that even if you know people, you can't assume their exposure level and must wear a mask. He now wears a mask everywhere, including when picking up food from a drive-through restaurant.

Other family who became sick: His mother became ill after he got sick. She still has a cough. She is in her 80s.

Illness timeline

Started showing symptoms: Sept. 25

- He was extremely tired and watched movies for three days in his living room under a blanket. He had no fever or cough at this point. He thought he was fighting a cold that was made worse by his asthma. Fever started Sept. 27.

Severe illness began: Sept. 28.

- He had to use his inhaler three times, which is the threshold his doctor said he needed hospital care. His temperature was 103.8 upon admittance to UnityPoint, Trinity-Moline. He was transferred to UnityPoint-Trinity, Rock Island.

Hospitalized: Sept. 28-Oct. 9

- Doctor was worried about blood clots and his heart, even though there is no family history of heart disease.
- Doctor told him that he had had two heart attacks.
- Treatment reduced his fever
- Doctor strongly suggested doing an invasive procedure to help him breathe, but Deppe resisted.
- Received experimental treatment:
 - One bag of convalescent plasma. Plasma from donors who have recovered from COVID-19 may contain antibodies to severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) that may help suppress the virus and modify the inflammatory response, according to the National Institutes of Health.
 - Five doses of Remdesivir, which then was an experimental treatment for COVID-19. On Oct. 22, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration approved for the treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19. It is an antiviral medication approved by the FDA to treat certain patients who are hospitalized with COVID-19. Remdesivir is given to patients by infusion through their veins.

Home nursing care: two weeks after returning home

Other notes during treatment:

- When he moved from his bed, his blood oxygen level would drop to 80 percent. Normal blood oxygen levels are at least 95 percent.
- He knew he was starting to feel better when he could taste pineapple at the hospital.
- He still is taking 10 different medicines for heart and lungs, including one for a persistent cough.
- He said it was lonely in the COVID-19 unit because patients are required to keep their doors closed to contain virus. Friends checking in with him helped.
- He has lost 60 pounds during illness and still shows sensitivity to some foods, including sugar.
- Going up one flight of stairs still exhausts him.

- Vision gets blurry when reading sometimes – never had that before
- “I would have rather have had to flu. This hit me like a hammer.”
- “Nurses and doctors were tired when I showed up. You can see it.”
- He truly believe that if he hadn’t gotten the convalescent plasma and Remdesivir that he won’t be here to tell his story.
- He tested positive four times before getting a negative test result.
- He will donate convalescent plasma if he is approved because he feels it is very important to give back to others.

Need for COVID-19 convalescent plasma and blood donors

Remarks from Pete Lux, director, donor and patient services, Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center

Use of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP) has increased as hospitals in our region see an increase in admission of patients with COVID-19. However, blood providers are struggling to find enough donors to meet the demand.

Convalescent plasma donations contain antibodies to the COVID-19 virus and are used in the treatment of patients currently hospitalized with a COVID-19 infection.

The blood center has provided more than 4000 doses of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma in our Midwest region since April. MVRBC serves 116 hospitals in a 4-state region including Genesis Health System and Unity Point Health System in the Quad Cities where positivity rates and hospitalizations are particularly high.

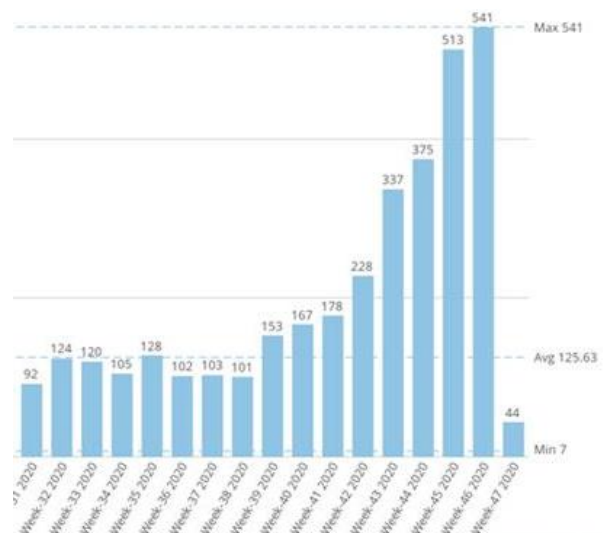
The chart below shows weekly utilization of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma from the beginning of August through Nov. 17. Utilization rose sharply through mid-October and November, setting a new high point each week.

Potential donors who provide documentation of a laboratory-confirmed positive test for COVID-19 and meet other health and safety criteria are scheduled for CCP donations at a nearby MVRBC Donor Center or mobile blood drive.

CCP donors must be at least 28 days from the last date they had respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) or fever and must meet all standard eligibility criteria for blood donation.

Research into the effectiveness of this treatment continues at a national level.

For more information, see www.bloodcenter.org/cp



To become a COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Donor

Individuals may self-refer or may be referred as a potential donor by their care provider:

- via the referral form at www.bloodcenter.org
- by calling (833) 610-1025
- or by email: patientservices@mvrbc.org

Urgent need for blood donors

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center reminds donors that blood donation is an approved, essential activity even as government bodies urge citizens to limit trips outside the home to contain the spread of COVID-19. MVRBC is the provider of blood and blood components to more than [115 hospitals](#) in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Next week's Thanksgiving holiday is projected to reduce weekly collections by approximately 1000 units across the Blood Center's entire service region. MVRBC asks all eligible donors to make an appointment for donation in the days leading up to Thanksgiving or immediately following. The Blood Center's **"iHeart Saving Lives Blood Drive"** is scheduled for Fri., Nov. 27 (7 a.m. until 3 p.m. and Sat., Nov. 28 (7 a.m. until 2 p.m.). To schedule an appointment for donation, call (800) 747-5401, schedule online at www.bloodcenter.org, or via the Blood Center's mobile app (www.bloodcenter.org/app).

Blood center contact for media follow-up

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More information

- Current Illinois mitigations: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-mitigation-plan>
- Current Iowa mitigations: https://governor.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Summary%20of%20Enhanced%20Public%20Health%20Measures_final.pdf
- <https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health/post/do-masks-prevent-covid-19>
- <https://togetherqc.com/2020/10/mask-mandate-local-initiative/>
- 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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