



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 15, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 13,004

Total deaths in Scott County: 120

7 deaths since last briefing on Thursday

Rock Island County – 56 new cases since Wednesday; total of 9,839

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 58

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 205

6 newly reported deaths: a man in his 80s and a man in his 70s, both of whom had been hospitalized; and a woman in her 100s, two women in their 80s and a woman in her 70s, all of whom had been living in long-term-care facilities.

Today's call

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

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

COVID-19 vaccination starting in Quad Cities

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

The first doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be making their way into our community this week, and we are on the verge of the biggest public health response in modern history. We ask for your patience and understanding as the vaccination campaign gets under way.

Both health departments have received many requests to register for COVID-19 vaccine or describe the vital role their organization plays in the community. At this time, there is no list to join. We recognize that **all** sectors are vital to the health and prosperity of our community. However, the decisions regarding the order in which groups will get access to the vaccine are being made primarily at the federal and state levels.

Healthcare workers, long-term care residents, and long-term care staff have been identified as the first groups to get vaccine, based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. The state of Iowa has created an advisory group that will provide additional guidance on immunizing healthcare workers in the initial phase. The state of Illinois is planning to provide additional guidance as well.

At this point, we, as partners, are finalizing our Phase 1-A plans for **how and where** the first priority groups will receive vaccine. Next, we will determine procedures for other priority groups, such as essential workers. We expect more guidance from our state and federal partners about who comes next, but it will take a while to get through Phase 1-A. The initial quantities of vaccine to be delivered are small.

Your turn will come, but keep up masking, social distancing, handwashing

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

Although we don't have a set timeline, everyone in our community will be able to get access to the COVID-19 vaccine in time. Your turn will come. In the meantime, you should learn about the vaccine and get answers to any questions you may have. Please use credible resources or talk to your healthcare provider.

Even though vaccine is becoming available, we will still have to keep using public health measures to prevent spread. The virus is still circulating. Keep wearing a mask. Social distance when you are in public. Wash your hands often. Stay home when you are sick.

For those making plans for upcoming holidays, we ask that you heed our guidance so that you can choose low risk ways to enjoy your holiday traditions. Spend the upcoming holidays only with family members in your household. Including individuals from other households to your holiday celebrations seriously increases the risk of spreading the virus around the table.

Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Avoid travel as much as possible.

If you make the decision to host or attend holiday gatherings, keep them small. The Quad Cities resident expert, Dr. Louis Katz, believes groups larger than 10 significantly increase the risk of spreading the virus.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a hopeful development in what has been a very dark 10 months. However, we still must work together to control the spread of the virus until the vaccine is available to all members in our community.

More information

- <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-mitigation-plan>
- 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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