



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2021**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Positive tests total: 19,275

Total deaths in Scott County: 226

Total vaccinated: 27,000

Total doses given: 80,200

Deaths: 226

Rock Island County – 22 new cases since Monday; total of 13,412

Currently in hospital: 19

Total deaths: 307

Total vaccinated: 61,052

Total doses: 21,680

Today's call

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

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

Vaccine basics and reminders

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

First some good news: The Rock Island County Health Department and our partners have given more than 61,000 doses of one of the three COVID-19 vaccines, and more than 21,000 people are fully vaccinated. That's 15% of our population.

Now for some sobering news: We are seeing rising case counts on both sides of the river, especially in younger people. The Illinois Department of Public Health put Rock Island County in warning status last week because of our rapid rise in cases. Right now, there are no additional mitigations in place because those are enacted on a regional level, but other counties in Region 2 also are seeing rising cases.

Because of all of this, the Rock Island County Health Department opened up vaccine eligibility to every Illinois resident 16 and older this week. With this change, we remind you of some vaccine and procedural basics:

- Our vaccine supply is primarily Pfizer and Moderna. We don't know when we will start to receive larger quantities of Johnson & Johnson. Remember that the best vaccine to take is the one offered to you.

- Pfizer has been given emergency use authorization for those 16 and older.
- For Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, the age is 18 and older.
- The second dose for the Pfizer vaccine is due about 21 days after your first dose.
- The second dose for the Moderna vaccine is due about 28 days after your first dose.
- You must have the same brand for both doses. Johnson & Johnson is one-dose vaccine.
- Don't fret if you can't get an appointment exactly on those days – just get it as soon as you can. The optimal window is up to 42 days after your first dose, but even then, just get it as soon as you can.
- The Illinois Department of Public Health keeps track of the number of first doses our county has given and has been matching second-dose allocations.
- We have thousands of appointments available each week at our National Guard clinic at the Camden Centre in Milan. To sign up, visit our Facebook page or our website, richd.org for links. You will need the voucher code that accompanies the post where you find the link.
- You are considered fully vaccinated:
 - Two weeks after your second dose of Moderna and Pfizer or
 - Two weeks after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine
- After being fully vaccinated:
 - You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
 - You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
 - If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
- Until we reach herd immunity – and we don't yet know what percentage of the public must be vaccinated to achieve it – we must continue wearing masks and social distancing in public. Washing your hands frequently and staying home when you're sick always are good public health pieces of advice. Illinois will remain under a mask mandate until the CDC recommends that it can be over.
- Expect these practices to continue until at least late summer.

Vaccine appointments will be available – maybe just not on first day

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

Iowa has not yet opened eligibility to all adults who would like to be vaccinated. We are expecting an announcement from Gov. Kim Reynolds later this week regarding whether or not the vaccine supply coming into Iowa has increased enough to open eligibility to all adults on Monday, April 5. Please stay tuned to the news and our website for the latest updates once they are shared.

As with every transition in vaccine eligibility that has taken place, we expect there will be a rush to find vaccine on the first day that everyone becomes eligible. We ask you to be patient and

know that you will get an appointment, it just may not be in the first few days. We anticipate that Pfizer and Moderna vaccine will continue to make up a large percentage of the vaccine available; to be fully vaccinated with one of these, an individual needs two shots. Please plan to schedule both of your shots with the same provider, whether it's through a local health care provider, local pharmacy, or potentially even our health department. It is not easy to find a second dose if you're looking somewhere other than where you received your first one. Save yourself the work and frustration. Vaccine providers in our community are doing their best to schedule you for both doses. If you cannot make your appointment, please let the vaccine provider know.

We shouldn't be able to recognize who is vaccinated as they walk down the street, unless they are wearing an I Got My COVID-19 Vaccine sticker. Even the vaccinated among us should continue to distance and mask, especially when in public locations. Put it this way, we need a full-court press to shut COVID down.

We need it right now as our daily cases and positivity rate increase. We know that more people are getting tested and more of those tests are coming back positive than they had over the last month. We are hearing that the number of people hospitalized is also starting to increase. The most frustrating and yet the most comforting thing is that we have the same 4 tools at our disposal to help us reduce and keep the spread of the virus low

- Wear a mask
- Keep your distance
- Stay home when sick
- Wash your hands

I know that everyone is tired of hearing those words and of following them, but the only way we can truly fail is if we stop trying. Please continue to do your part!

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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