



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**

Today's event

The City of Davenport livestreamed the event via Facebook and other partners shared it:
<https://www.facebook.com/cityofdavenportiowa>

Speakers

- Edward Rivers, Scott County Health Department
- Doug Cropper, President & CEO, Genesis Health System
- Mayor Mike Matson, City of Davenport
- Mayor Stephanie Acri, City of Moline
- Janet Hill, Chief Operating Officer, Rock Island County Health Department

Current Status of COVID-19 in the Quad Cities

- QC COVID-19 Coalition partners from public health, healthcare, and city leaders are making a collaborative call to action for our community, in the face of steeply climbing COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.
- From the beginning of the pandemic, we have had two goals for our community:
 1. To slow the spread of COVID-19.
 2. To prevent overwhelming the capability of our health care system.
- We are nearing a critical inflection point after which our health care system may not be able to adequately respond to the demands placed upon it. As COVID cases continue to rise, the flu season is beginning. This will increase the demands on our health care system and further challenge our community.

Local Health System Status

Three trends that are concerning at Genesis:

- **Rising hospitalizations.** Over the past two weeks, daily inpatient census of COVID-19 patients has gone from the teens and 20s to consistently in the mid-to-high 30s. **These are the highest numbers of positive COVID inpatients so far.**
- **Positivity rate for symptomatic patients.** We consider 10% of COVID tests coming back positive to be a warning sign. Genesis' 7-day average for positive tests is running at 12%.
- **Record number of people being tested for COVID-19.** Last two weeks we are averaging almost 500 tests per day. When you combine a high positivity rate with a large number of tests ordered, we know **we are headed in the wrong direction.** About 15% of these

positive tests become hospitalized patients, and we know some will end up in the ICU for long periods.

What our community needs to understand about these numbers and why we need their help:

- **Hospital lengths of stay are typically long for COVID-19 patients.** You can only add so many COVID patients requiring extended ICU care before the ICU reaches capacity. **Remember that other patients, not just COVID-19 patients, also need ICU care such as heart surgery and trauma patients.**
- **Surge Plans:** We have extensive contingency plans to prepare for a COVID-19 patient surge. However **putting our surge plans into effect will create a disruption of services because staff would have to be re-allocated to other areas to care for these additional COVID patients.**
- If these trends continue, you or a family member may need a hospital service that would be temporarily suspended or delayed due to a COVID surge.
- **The rise in COVID patients in October is straining our staff and wearing them out.** This is a marathon and not a sprint, and we need to be prepared for 6-9 more months of this before a COVID vaccine helps us reach herd immunity.
- **Our staff has responded heroically over the past seven months.** Their dedication and resilience, especially when our COVID patients and families are going through so much themselves.
- Until there is an effective vaccine, the best we can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is wear a mask in public, socially distance, wash our hands, and avoid risky behavior of gathering without wearing a mask or social distancing. Also, **get a flu shot.** The symptoms of seasonal influenza and COVID-19 can be similar. If you get a flu shot and still show symptoms, call a provider about being tested for COVID-19.
- Even though UnityPoint-Trinity CEO Bob Erickson could not make it today, your community's health systems are collaborating to care for this community. Genesis and UnityPoint leadership are in frequent contact -- whether it is refining regional surge plans, monitoring ICU bed census in our area, or, most recently, planning for the administration of a COVID vaccine once it reaches approval. I know Bob shares in my concerns about rising positivity rates in our area and echoes our call to the public to be extra vigilant about staying safe.

Statement from UnityPoint Health – Trinity President & CEO, Robert J. Erickson

“UnityPoint Health – Trinity continues to monitor the ongoing shortage of intensive care beds throughout our EMA regions in Iowa and Illinois. We continue to experience elevated COVID-19 inpatient numbers as well as other intensely sick members of our communities. As all hospitals are facing the same challenges, transferring patients to other facilities for care is a growing concern for all of us as we activate our surge plans to accommodate the needs of our patients safely. As healthcare providers, we are doing everything we can to ensure we have the resources necessary to serve our communities – but we need the community’s help. We urge

you to do your part in slowing the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon and when you protect yourselves and others, you are literally saving lives while helping us and other health systems provide care for COVID-19 patients as well as all patients who need it. Please social distance, wash your hands, wear a mask around others and avoid large gatherings...this is a winnable fight but we all need to do our part and we will all make it through this together.”

Call to Action for Quad Cities Residents

We are all in this together. Please do your part.

Please listen to public health guidelines:

- Wear a mask
- Watch your distance – stay at least 6 feet from others
- Wash your hands often
- Get tested if you are experiencing symptoms – stay home until you receive your test results
- If you are asked to quarantine or isolate, stay home for the entire period to keep from spreading the virus to others

Continue to Support Our Community:

- Remember our local businesses when spending money
- Keep COVID-19 recommendations in mind when shopping, eating at a restaurant, or picking up food to go

More information

- <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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