



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 22, 2020**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 13,536

Total deaths in Scott County: 141

13 deaths since last briefing on Thursday

Rock Island County – 58 new cases since Monday; total of 10,319

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 61

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 227

6 newly reported deaths: a man in his 90s who died at home; two women in their 60s who were hospitalized; and a woman in her 90s, a man in his 80s, and a man in his 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>

You will get your turn for vaccine

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

Both of our health departments and our partner hospital systems have heard from many members of the general public wanting to get in line for COVID-19 vaccine when it's available. We are extremely happy to hear that members of our community are planning ahead to get the vaccine when it's their turn.

However, we have received very limited amounts of vaccine in the Quad Cities and we are still in just the beginning phases of vaccinating the first priority group, our frontline healthcare workers. We ask the community for your patience as this vaccination campaign continues. Here are a few things to remember:

- We expect to continue receiving only limited amounts of vaccine in the upcoming weeks. Supply won't significantly increase until later in 2021.
- Vaccine can only be given to those in the priority group identified by the federal and state advisory groups.

- We don't yet know who will get the vaccine next after healthcare workers. We have broad information about who is recommended to go next, but the order in which that takes place has not yet been decided.
- As of right now, there is no list you need to be on as a member of the general public.
- You do NOT need to call your doctor, the local hospitals, or the health departments to sign up to get the vaccine or find out more. We promise – we will let you know when it's your turn.
- We DO need you to be patient. We cannot reserve vaccine for anyone and we cannot give you an exact date when it will be available to you. However, we are working hard to get plans in place so that we can vaccinate as many as we can as more vaccine is available.
- We DO need you to watch our local news partners, our websites, and our social media pages for more information. We promise to share more when it is available.

We must continue to mask, socially distance

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

In the meantime, our mask up/social distance/ and wash your hand message is more important than ever. Please do this to help us keep the spread low as we wait for vaccines to become more widely available in our community.

We also ask that you remember the important decisions you have before you as you finalize plans for holiday celebrations. Gathering with family and friends as if there is no pandemic is dangerous not only for you, your family, and your friends, but also for our community. Please make this the year you choose non-traditional but creative ways to mark the holidays! If you decide you must gathering in groups, keep them small, require masks, eat only with those from your household, and wash your hands often. We are all relying on each other and our collaboration has never been more important!

Our last ask of you is to continue to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines. Ask your questions and get your answers from reliable sources so that you're ready to get the vaccine when it's your turn. We want to do our part to help share the information that you will need to make this important decision for yourself and your family.

We have asked Dr. Louis Katz, medical director of the Scott County Health Department, to take on the topic of mRNA vaccines. We will now turn it over to Dr. Katz.

mRNA vaccines

Dr. Louis Katz did not speak from prepared talking points. Please refer to the video link at the top of this media release.

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://governor.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Summary%20of%20Enhanced%20Public%20Health%20Measures%20final.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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