



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Jan. 21, 2021**

**Current COVID-19 case count**

**Scott County** – Total of 15,602  
Total deaths in Scott County: 167

**Rock Island County** – 47 new cases since Wednesday; total of 11,852  
Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 27  
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 290  
Newly reported death of a man in his 90s 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>

**Iowa lowers 1-B vaccination age to 65**

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

On Tuesday we told you how Iowa's Infectious Disease Advisory Council (IDAC) released its guidance for Phase 1B last week. Persons 75 years of age and older were included, due to the high number of deaths in this age group. Also included were persons vulnerable to the risk of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 based on where they live or work.

We also said that we had received many questions about persons under the age of 75 being eligible. Although federal authorities had recommended immunizing those 65 and older with serious health conditions, at that time those persons were not included in Phase 1B in Iowa. This decision was made by IDAC and IDPH as a result of the extremely limited supply of vaccine allocated to Iowa.

Today, Governor Reynolds modified the IDPH Phase 1-B definitions to include all persons 65 or older, and provided a tiered priority system for the groups other than those over 65. Beginning the first week in February, persons 65 or older **will be** eligible to receive COVID vaccine. In the tiered system first responders, school staff, early childhood workers, and childcare workers are in Tier 1. Tier 2 includes food, agriculture and manufacturing workers in congregate settings; and persons with disabilities living in home settings, and their staff. Tier 3 includes congregate living staff and residents not otherwise already included, and government officials engaged in

state business at the Capitol during the legislative session. Tier 4 includes inspectors responsible for hospital, long-term care, and child safety programs. Tier 5 includes correctional facility staff and incarcerated persons.

Although Phase 1-B will begin the first week in February, Governor Reynolds also emphasized that by lowering the age of eligibility Phase 1-B would take longer to administer. The state of Iowa currently receives 19,500 doses of vaccine per week. It is estimated that Phase 1-B includes up to 660,000 persons. At the rate Iowa now receives vaccine, it will take nearly 9 months to reach everyone in Phase 1-B. We can only hope that an increase in the availability of vaccine will speed the process.

Our staff are already working to update our plan for Phase 1-B in Scott County. We will be working with medical providers to determine how best to reach the people included. Currently, our clinic reaches out to persons and groups next in line and schedules appointments. What groups and persons will be served by our clinic and who will visit their primary physician will be determined by our discussions. Stay tuned to our social media pages for updates. We will provide information on how you will know when your turn will come as soon as we can.

Until that time comes, please continue to do the things we have been encouraging: wear a mask, employ social distancing, avoid gatherings of people outside your household, be tested and stay home if you have any symptoms.

### **RICHD's mass vaccination clinics now require registration; link available Fridays**

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

We are making changes to our mass vaccination clinics every Tuesday at the Greater Quad City Auto Auction, 4015 78<sup>th</sup> Ave., Milan, in an effort to reduce wait times and traffic. We still are vaccinating people in Phases 1A (healthcare workers) and 1B (frontline essential workers and Rock Island County residents age 65 and older). You must now sign up for a 15-minute time interval. You might not receive the vaccine at the exact time you signed up for, but registration guarantees a dose for you and your place in line.

We have 600 doses available for Tuesday's clinic and will have 600 slots available to register for online. The registration link will go live at 10 a.m. every Friday that vaccine is available on our website, richd.org, and our Facebook page. Depending on supply from the State of Illinois, vaccine might not be available each week. We will announce how many doses, if any, will be available every Friday.

Please do not call the health department to schedule your time interval. At this time, the only way to reserve a dose for the mass vaccination clinics is through this link available at 10 a.m. Friday. Other options could be available in the future as more vaccine becomes available.

If you do not get a slot, please do not come to the auto auction on Tuesdays because we will not have vaccine to give you. You will be turned away at the entrance unless you have preregistered. Please bring your photo identification or other proof of identity.

To help ease traffic in the area, Rock Island County Sheriff's deputies will direct drivers to enter coming from the east. Drivers are encouraged to access 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue from U.S. 150 on the east side of the Quad-City International Airport. Drivers who come across the Veterans Memorial Bridge on the Milan Beltway from Moline will be directed to turn around at either 47<sup>th</sup> Street or 50<sup>th</sup> Street near the Group O facility to join the line heading west on 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Deputies will be on hand to direct traffic.

The auto auction's parking lot will be blocked off until shortly before 9 a.m., and a sheriff's deputy will be posted at the entrance.

Those who registered are asked to tune their radios to 89.7 FM once they reach the vaccination clinic site. We will provide information on the radio station about when your group will be allowed to move to the next checkpoint.

Please do not arrive more than 15 minutes before your registered time interval because you will not be able to enter at another time. Upon entering, those who registered will be asked to park in a holding area. Residents in that holding area will be told when to proceed to the next station.

After residents are vaccinated, they will need to be observed for any potential reaction. Portable toilets will be available near the entrance and near the waiting areas in the parking lot.

Anyone who is not coming to the clinic, going to work at a nearby business, or visiting a business near 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue is asked to avoid the area. Please do not block streets and business driveways.

We believe that these changes will significantly reduce wait times and traffic in the area, but we must rely on you to follow directions and not come to the site early or without a time slot. All vaccine at the clinic will be given to people who have registered.

Vaccine allotments coming into Rock Island County remain low. Any allotment of doses to Rock Island County must be distributed between the mass vaccination clinics and our partners that also are vaccinating people in Phases 1A and 1B. These include UnityPoint-Trinity, Genesis, Community Health Care, and Jewel-Osco. At this point, UnityPoint-Trinity, Genesis and Community Health Care are focused on vaccinating groups in Phases 1A and frontline essential workers in 1B. Each partner sets its own process for administering the vaccine. Please check the appropriate partner's website for how to reserve your dose. Slots at this time are very limited because vaccine doses are very limited.

At this time, vaccine supply is low. You may not be able to get your second dose at day 21 (Pfizer) or day 28 (Moderna). If it not available to you at that time, the CDC recommends that you get the second dose as soon as you can.

Finally, please do not call the auto auction to ask questions because staff there will not have the vaccine information you seeking. The health department will provide updates as needed through these media briefings, on our website, or Facebook page and on togetherqc.com. We are grateful for the partnership with Greater Quad City Auto Auction owner Larry Anderson and his staff in providing his business for this valuable community service.

### **More information**

- [www.TogetherQC.com](http://www.TogetherQC.com)
- [coronavirus.iowa.gov](http://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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