



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Feb. 4, 2021

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 16,416

Total deaths in Scott County: 186

Rock Island County – 31 new cases since Wednesday; total of 12,353

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 28

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 298

Today's call

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

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

Rock Island County vaccination moving to TaxSlayer Center next Tuesday

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

We have a lot of important information to share with you today regarding our evolving mass vaccination plans. All of this will be sent out in our usual after-briefing media release.

Next week's mass vaccination site moving because of weather

First, because of extremely cold weather forecast for next week, we are moving our Tuesday, Feb. 9 mass vaccination clinic to the TaxSlayer Center in Moline. You must have a confirmed time slot to receive your vaccination at this clinic or any of our clinics.

People will be asked to wait in their cars in the TaxSlayer Center parking lot and tune their radio to 89.7 FM to be told when people in their time slot will be allowed to come into the building. Only about 50 people will be allowed in the building at the same time to adhere to Restore Illinois guidelines. Social distancing and masking will be enforced.

We prefer to be at our usual site, the Greater Quad City Auto Auction, because it is efficient and prevents people from gathering indoors during a pandemic. We vaccinated more than 800 people last week in 5 hours. We will be at the auto auction as often as weather allows. We will announce through our media partners, on social media and our website whenever weather forces us to relocate to the backup site at the TaxSlayer Center.

We appreciate the willingness of all of leaders at the TaxSlayer Center, the City of Moline and the Greater Quad City Auction in helping us find suitable sites to complete our historic public health vaccination effort.

Online system to get slots

We will continue with our online system to register for time slots for our vaccination clinics. A link to register for a **first dose** time slot will go live at 10 a.m. Friday on our Facebook page and our website, richd.org. We will have 350 first dose slots available. A second link for those needing their **second dose** will go live at 11 a.m. in the same places. Only people who received their first dose on Jan. 12 or before will be eligible to receive the second dose. We are giving Moderna vaccines at this clinic.

We are using Signup Genius for the slots. You do not need to sign up for an account. For first-dosers, just click a slot and put in your name and email address and click submit. For second-doses, you still don't need to sign up for an account, but will be asked two qualifying questions that will require you to say when you received your first dose and what brand of vaccine it was. Then, you will need to put in your name and email to register for a time slot.

We set out a plan for first and second doses earlier this week. We recognize there is a potential bottleneck for second doses toward the middle of March if other partners do not have the supply to do second doses.

Next Tuesday's plan will stay the same: 350 first dose slots and 450 second dose slots. Beyond next Tuesday, we are looking at ways to prioritize second doses, knowing that other partners can offer the second dose. The plan we announced earlier this week will need to be changed because our vaccine allocation no longer is predictable. We also no longer can predict which vaccine manufacturer supply we will be sent. We will announce any changes as necessary to our media partners, on our social media page and our website. As we've said throughout the pandemic, we are in a quickly evolving situation.

We are balancing first and second doses with the small amount of vaccine coming into our county. We are working with the numbers and trying to remain flexible so that we don't have to cancel a clinic due to low supply.

Other options

To help with that second-dose bottleneck, we are happy to announce today that all Illinois Quad-City Hy-Vee pharmacies will give second doses to people no matter where they received their first dose.

We also got word today from the Illinois Department of Public Health that we can send 975 doses of Pfizer to both UnityPoint-Trinity and Genesis health systems to start vaccinating their patients. Our total allocation from the state for next week is only 2,450 doses, even with the direct shipment of Pfizer 1,950 doses to the health systems. This total allocation is an increase of 850 doses over last week. We also share doses with Community Health Care, which is vaccinating groups in Phase 1B.

As we just said, we are relying on our partners to get help us vaccinate everyone 16 and older in Rock Island County. Here is a roundup of ways to get the vaccine now, but remember that next week, only 2,450 doses are coming into the county and that 1,950 are going to the health systems to begin vaccinating their established patients:

- Rock Island County Health Department: Link goes live at 10 a.m. every Friday for first doses and a second link at 11 a.m. for second doses on our Facebook page and at our website: richd.org
- Hy-Vee: <https://www.hy-vee.com/my-pharmacy/covid-vaccine-consent>
- Walgreens: <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19>
- Jewel Osco: www.albertsons.com/covidclinic
- Community Health Care: Complete form on www.CHCQCA.org to be added to waitlist

Option for seniors without a computer

We are using an internet-based registration system to make this mass vaccination effort work as well as possible. We understand that our older residents might not have access to computers or the internet. Today we are announcing a partnership with Alternatives for the Older Adult so that older adults 65 and older can call into a resource center to get on a list for available slots. After most Rock Island County older adults have been fully vaccinated, Alternatives will join with the Quad Cities Open Network to help people younger than 65 who do not have access to a computer or internet to sign up for the vaccine. Here with us is Kathy Weiman, the chief executive officer at Alternatives.

Rock Island County seniors can call to get on vaccine waiting list

Remarks from Kathy Weiman, chief executive officer, Alternatives for the Older Adult

Beginning Monday, Feb. 15, the Rock Island County Health Department is working with Alternatives for the Older Adult, Inc., to start taking calls from **older adults (65 and older) who do not have the ability to register online** for vaccinations. The Alternatives' Vaccine Support Center will provide answers to questions, assist to book appointments (if available) and/or add names to waiting lists to be registered when open appointments are available. The Rock Island County Health Department is planning to designate a few vaccine slots for these individuals each week.

A toll-free number is currently being set up and that phone number will be shared with the public prior to the February 15 rollout.

Alternatives will also work with area human service agencies to broaden the support to targeted neighborhoods and communities. Working with Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Project Now and the Quad Cities Open Network, (of more than 80 partner agencies), there is a centralized system to collect information and get as many people registered as soon as vaccination appointments become available.

Please note:

- Vaccine Support Center will open Monday, Feb. 15
- We will take calls between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- A toll-free number to call will be released in the next week.
- We may not get you registered, but will get you on a waiting list.
- Be patient as you know the lines may be busy, particularly in the first couple of weeks.

Scott County vaccine supply stable but low for several weeks

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

We have some good news today. There was a conference call today with the Iowa Department of Public Health in which it was shared that we will be allocated a stable supply of vaccine for several weeks. This is something we have not been guaranteed in the first 8 weeks of this vaccine rollout. This information, and what we learn on tomorrow's call, will allow us to update our plans and provide some continuity in vaccine availability for the residents of our community. The bad news was that our supply is not increasing. It will remain low.

Knowing our coming allocations, we are better able to plan for the upcoming weeks. Vaccines will be given to priority groups in Phase 1B Tier 1 as well as the 65+ priority group. The announcement of a stable vaccine supply also allows us to allocate vaccine to our health care partners who are best able to immunize vaccine people in the 65+ priority group who have the highest need. We believe the upcoming weeks will ensure a more stable supply of vaccine and a better method in getting the vaccine to the 65+ population. We will share more information next week.

Another welcome development is a direct allocation of vaccine to retail pharmacies. Vaccine is or will be available in limited amounts at local pharmacies, including Walgreens and Hy-Vee. We do not want to raise expectations too high – vaccine supply still remains low and the supply these pharmacies have is very limited. Please note, the Scott County Health Department does not schedule appointments for pharmacy clinics. Please contact these local pharmacies if you have questions about appointment slots or registering. Iowa does not have a vaccination code that you need to enter into either system.

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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