



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

Feb. 25, 2021

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 18,213

Total deaths in Scott County: 205

Rock Island County –18 new cases since Wednesday; total of 12,831

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 17

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 304

Today's call

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

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

Vaccine opportunities expanded to Illinoisans with specific underlying health conditions

Starting today, The Illinois Department of Public Health is opening vaccine opportunities to Illinoisans with specific underlying health conditions, including:

- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Immunocompromised state from a solid organ transplant
- Obesity
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary disease
- Sickle Cell Disease

As you can imagine, we are pleased to be able to offer vaccine protection to people with these serious health conditions. However, we are worried that expanding eligibility without greatly expanding supply will lead to more frustration in getting an opportunity to be vaccinated.

We continue to ask for your patience. Adding thousands of people to the pool of those seeking vaccination will make getting a time slot more difficult. We are trying to manage your expectations. You will have a chance to receive your vaccination, but you could be weeks away from getting a time slot at our clinics or with our healthcare and pharmacy partners. Please

understand that public health and our partners are working hard on your behalf and that this process is frustrating for all of us.

We ask people with only those who are eligible seek a vaccination time slot. We can serve healthcare providers, frontline essential workers, Rock Island County residents 65 and older, and now people with the outlined serious medical conditions. Please bring verification of your diagnosis to the vaccination clinic. Verification documents include an after-visit summary from a recent medical provider's visit that includes a diagnosis, an explanation of benefits from your insurance company or an explanation from your medical provider. You also may have access to your medical records through an online portal, such as myunitypoint, mygenesis or mychart.

Soon, as supply increases, more vaccine opportunities will be available in our community. Genesis, UnityPoint-Trinity and Community Health Care are reaching out to their patients to offer a vaccine appointment. Please take the first opportunity you are given and keep that time slot. Please don't take several slots "just in case." Once you have a confirmed time slot, that dose is reserved for you, barring an unforeseen situation such as another weather-related disruption in shipping.

Because vaccine supply remains limited, the state health department still is directing us to give as many second doses as are necessary. We offer second doses from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays, and any remaining slots (if available) will be offered at 10 a.m. Friday on our website and our Facebook page. As we have said in previous weeks, we suggest that you click the link on the Facebook page because the social media giant's servers are less likely to crash with this many users. You do not have to sign up for a Facebook account to search for our health department's page and click on the link. The links for Thursday and Friday opportunities will be different.

We still are using Signup Genius for all 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-dosers, 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. This information is available on the vaccine card you received with your first dose. Then, you will need to put in your name and email to register for a time slot.

Planning taking place for Phase 1B Tier 2 vaccinations

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

As has been the case during many points of the pandemic, the response between Iowa and Illinois differs. In Iowa, we have not yet moved into Phase 1C, when individuals with underlying health conditions become eligible for vaccine. We are still early in Phase 1B, with 5 tiers in this phase to move through. We know this continues to be frustrating for many in our community. We ask for your patience and are hopefully that the supply of vaccine increases, allowing us to move through these tiers more quickly.

Individuals in the 65+ priority population is eligible for vaccine throughout Phase 1B. The limited vaccine supply coming to Scott County continues to be given to our 3 main health system partners to be administered through their clinics. CASI continues to help connect seniors without a primary provider or with independent providers to vaccine through the health systems. However, with a low supply, just because you have a provider does not mean you will get vaccine quickly. If you have worked with CASI, that also does not mean you will be getting vaccine quickly. It will still take time because we have a much lower supply than the number of 65+ individuals who would like the vaccine.

At the same time that the 65+ population is being vaccinated, we are also vaccinating Tier 1 priority groups. These groups help support some of the foundational infrastructures in our community – our schools, childcare systems, and first responder agencies.

We know that Tier 2 is quickly approaching. Qualifying groups will be individuals with disabilities in home settings who are dependent on others for primary care and their primary care staff; and frontline essential workers in the food, agricultural, and manufacturing sectors ***who live or work in settings where social distancing is not allowed.***

Additional guidance was provided late last week addressing frontline essential workers listed in Tier 2. Those who qualify must be from the food, agricultural, distribution, and manufacturing sectors and must work in or live in congregate settings that do not allow for social distancing. There may be cases where some workers in a facility may potentially qualify for vaccine based on this definition and others do not. Workers in industries or departments within a facility who can social distance will not be vaccinated in Phase 1B.

We are working to identify the facilities and workers qualifying under this narrow definition. We will be reaching out directly to businesses as we work through this process. Essential workers and businesses outside of this definition are not yet identified to be vaccinated in Phase 1B or 1C. Please continue to watch our website for updates on future priority groups as they are determined by the state of Iowa.

Additionally, it was mentioned on Governor Kim Reynolds' briefing today that they are working to provide a one-time additional supply of vaccine to Scott County to be given out through our clinic. We welcome any opportunity to bring additional vaccine into Scott County and will work with the Iowa Department of Public Health on the logistics of the vaccine and how it will quickly be administered into our community in the upcoming days. We will share more information as we have it.

We know the limited vaccine supply is creating a slow rollout and leading to many frustrations. We will continue to move as quickly as we can with the vaccine we are allocated each week.

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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