



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 11, 2021**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Positive tests total: 18,538
Total deaths in Scott County: 215

Rock Island County – 12 new cases since Wednesday; total of 13,055
Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 17
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 305

Today's call

A video recording of today's media briefing can be found at
<https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/covid19/news>

From pandemic declaration to vaccine clinics: what a year!

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

A year ago today, the WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak as a global pandemic. Those of us in public health have felt every one of those days in the past year — and we understand that you have, too. Now, we all are gaining access to vaccines that will bring this horrible era to a close.

We're so happy to see the number of vaccinations growing quickly in Rock Island County. Our seven-day rolling average is 1,267 doses per day. The National Guard-assisted clinic in Milan is boosting this effort, but we also can attribute it to growing vaccine supply at our healthcare and pharmacy partners. Almost 38,000 people have received at least one dose in Rock Island County, and more than 14,000 people are fully vaccinated.

This vaccination process has seen some bumps. This week, we transitioned to a six-day-a-week National Guard site at the Camden Centre in Milan, and we held our last-for-now mass vaccination clinic run only with health department personnel, Moline and Rock Island firefighters, and our dedicated Medical Reserve Corps volunteers.

Moving to the National Guard site has meant we transitioned to a new vaccine registration system. Changing procedures in the middle of a response isn't ideal, but it is required when using these state resources. We are working to get registration links available earlier, but we have to wait for the vendor to approve our clinic link request. This is taking longer than we had

hoped. We must ask that you pay close attention to our Facebook page and our website to see when new links are available. We all want a set schedule to post, and we will continue to strive for that. Until then, please check those sites frequently. We will post links as soon as they are available.

One of the biggest changes with this system is the need to put in a voucher code. These voucher codes will be shared on the same Facebook and website post as the link for that clinic. You must have a confirmed appointment and a QR code that has been printed out or is available on your phone.

This new system is capable of scheduling second doses before leaving the clinic. However, there currently is a glitch with the vaccine management/scheduling system that the Illinois Department of Public Health and system vendor are working to fix. This is a temporary problem. When it is fixed, you will be able to schedule your second appointment before leaving the first clinic. We will work out a solution for the people who need a second dose, but this probably will require you to schedule a second dose on this system with a dedicated link. Anyone who needs a second dose should click on the second dose box. You still need the voucher code. Both the link and voucher code will be the same posting on our Facebook page and at richd.org.

We also don't have control over which vaccine the state sends us. As you have heard many times from Dr. Katz, the best vaccine to take is the one that is available to you. For second doses, we ask that you pay close attention to what vaccine will be available at the clinic.

Finally, we reported Wednesday that we are starting to see a troubling trend of more people becoming infected. Both cases and hospitalizations are rising. We know there are more-contagious virus variants circulating in our community, but we also know that masking, social distancing, frequent hand washing and staying home when you are sick will keep others from getting ill. We all have worked so hard to keep the number of infections low, and we can't let up now.

Masking still will make a difference

Remarks from Amy Thoreson, interim director, Scott County Health Department

As we have come to the one year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic entering our daily thoughts and activities, we can look back at hundreds of things that have changed in how we interact on a daily basis. The experiences of the last year have been life changing. From the first case of COVID in a Scott County resident on March 21, to the tsunami of cases in November, our community has experienced more challenges, barriers, and frustrations than we ever could have imagined. Then, COVID-19 vaccines became authorized and truly changed the future of this pandemic! We are cautiously optimistic as we see light at the end of the tunnel due to a more steady supply of vaccine making its way into our community.

To date, more than 49,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given by providers in Scott County. 14,676 Scott County residents have been fully vaccinated with more groups getting their second dose in the upcoming days. This is a great sign for our community. Vaccination is a huge tool in helping us make our way out of this pandemic. We are so close to the end, but we can't let up now. Masks are also a vital tool in making it over the finish line. Masking will still make a difference. The only time masks don't need to be worn is when fully vaccinated people are gathering with other fully vaccinated people or people at very low risk of COVID-19. We still need to wear masks when we go to the grocery store, when we attend an indoor sporting event, or when riding public transportation, just to name a few. Now is still not the time to be hosting parties of individuals from multiple households. Variants of COVID-19 are circulating and put at risk the low case counts we currently have. Vaccines and masks are our best defense against these variants. Do we hope we can attend events, grocery shop, and just hop in the car in the near future without worrying about a mask? Yes, of course! But we aren't quite there yet.

Both of our counties continue to monitor positive COVID-19 case data. We have come a long way from the dangerous November where cases were coming in at more than 300 per day and the hospitals were overwhelmed with patients. We have experienced a welcomed downward trend in cases. But this trend is very vulnerable to the decisions we make as a community and how well we continue with our mitigation measures.

We have asked Dr. Louis Katz, medical director of the Scott County Health Department, to address what he is noticing for trends in our recent daily positive cases.

Now is not the time to roll back mitigation measures as cases creep up

Dr. Louis Katz did not speak from prepared remarks. See the link above for a recording of the media conference.

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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