



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

April 24, 2020

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – 8 new cases for a total of 196. 1 new death: an adult in the age range of 61-80.
4 total deaths

Rock Island County – 16 new cases for a total of 336. 25 patients are in the hospital.
6 total deaths

Face coverings: additional information

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

On Thursday, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said all residents should wear a face covering when leaving home. Starting May 1, the face coverings will be a requirement in public for anyone age 2 and older and medically able to tolerate them. He also extended the Illinois Stay at Home order until May 30.

We support the governor's mandates and reiterate that the most effective ways to prevent further spread of COVID-19 remain:

- Social distancing by staying at home as much as possible
- Keeping at least 6 feet between you and anyone else
- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time and using hand sanitizer when washing your hands is not possible
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your elbow
- Wearing a face covering when you must go out for essential supplies
- Staying home when you are ill

Those who have no close contacts that are infected with COVID-19 don't need a mask while at home. Provided you do so alone or with close household contacts, other situations that don't require a mask or face covering include running or walking in your neighborhood, working in the yard, washing your car in the driveway, and other outdoor activities on your own property.

As we have said throughout this pandemic, Illinois and Iowa might differ on some mandates and rules. Iowans aren't required to wear a face covering in public, but we believe wearing one will help keep the infection rate of the entire Quad Cities as low as possible. We know that this virus spreads through respiratory droplets. Wearing a face covering in public reduces the number of droplets in the air. Face coverings protect all of us.

Surgical masks and N95 respirators still must be saved for health care workers and first responders. We all must do our part to keep them as safe as possible while they are saving lives. When making or buying them, keep these guidelines in mind:

- Use materials that will hold up to daily washing and drying. Launder them before for the first time.
- Have more than one covering per person so they can be laundered daily.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before putting on a covering and immediately after removing it.
- Avoid touching the face covering while using it. If you do wash, your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- Have the covering fit snugly around your mouth and nose.
- Replace your covering when damp or wet

Testing: updated Illinois guidance

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

Because more testing is becoming available, the Illinois Department of Public Health has changed its guidelines for who can be tested. The bottom line: Anyone with COVID-19-like illness or symptoms can get a test.

As testing capacity expands, testing is now available for people who:

- Have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath and fever) **AND**
- Have a risk factor, such as
 - Contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19
 - A compromised immune system or a serious chronic medical condition

Testing is also available for those with or without symptoms who:

- Work in a health care facility
- Work in correctional facilities, such as jails or prisons
- Serve as first responders, such as paramedics, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers or firefighters
- Support critical infrastructure, such as workers in grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, gas stations, public utilities, factories, childcare and in sanitation.

A list of testing sites can be found online at coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/testing-sites . In Rock Island County, testing is available at Community Health Care in Rock Island, Moline and East Moline; Genesis HealthPlex in Moline and UnityPoint Clinic Express Care – SouthPark Pointe, Moline. At each site, you must call ahead.

More information and video

- www.TogetherQC.com
- Flattening the Curve Resource: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america>
- Together Quad Cities: Keep Staying Home video: <https://youtu.be/GG0hRvJ0So>
- IDPH COVID-19 PSA (television): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvsF02uCM-M&feature=youtu.be>
- IDPH COVID-19 PSA (radio): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xznWLKeZO3E&feature=youtu.be>

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