FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rock Island County Health Department reports 1 death, 78 new cases of COVID-19
County returns to warning status with positivity rate of 9.4 percent

The Rock Island County Health Department reports an additional death from COVID-19: a man in his 90s who had been hospitalized. The total number of deaths in Rock Island County from this virus is now 99.

“We have yet another death today, making the total number 99 since the pandemic began,” said Janet Hill, chief operating officer of the Rock Island County Health Department. “We send our deepest sympathies to his friends and family.”

In addition, the health department reports 78 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number to 4,017. Currently, 27 patients are hospitalized in Rock Island County.

“We’ve never had this many cases in one day, and it’s demoralizing,” Hill said. “We fear Quad Citians are tuning out our messages just as the virus is surging.

“You might be done with COVID, but COVID is not done with us. We are bracing for months of being indoors, where the virus spreads more easily. If it’s this bad in October, just think how many Quad Citians will get sick and how many will die this winter.”

The new cases are:
• 2 women in their 90s
• 1 woman in her 80s
• 3 women in their 70s
• 10 women in their 60s
• 6 women in their 50s
• 5 women in their 40s
• 7 women in their 30s
• 5 women in their 20s
• 1 woman in her teens
• 1 man in his 90s
• 1 man in his 80s
• 5 men in their 70s
• 4 men in their 60s
• 6 men in their 50s
• 5 men in their 40s
• 4 men in their 30s
• 8 men in their 20s
• 2 men in their teens
• 1 boy younger than 13
• 1 male infant 1 or younger

No additional information regarding these cases is available due to federal privacy laws.

In addition, Rock Island County has returned to warning status under the Illinois Department of Public Health’s county-level COVID-19 risk metrics, which indicates an increased risk of the virus.

The warning status is for the week ending Oct. 17. The metrics allow counties to move in and out of warning status. The Quad Cities has been a COVID-19 hotspot in Illinois for many months. Counties meeting set targets are in blue on the state’s county-level map, while counties that are not meeting the targets are shown in orange.

“We are not surprised that we have returned to orange,” Hill said. “We are seeing rising case counts and test positivity rates.” Currently, Rock Island County’s positivity rate is 9.4 percent, which IDPH terms “substantial.”

We all must continue to do our part to prevent further spread of COVID-19 by:

• Washing your hands frequently
• Watching your distance  Keep at least 6 feet between you and anyone else
• Wearing a face covering when you must go out

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