



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rock Island County Health Department reports 3 deaths, 58 new cases of COVID-19

The Rock Island County Health Department reports two additional deaths from COVID-19: a woman in her 90s who was living in a long-term-care facility; a man in his 80s who died at home; and a man in his 40s who was hospitalized. The total number of deaths is now 370.

“We send our sympathies to their loved ones,” said Nita Ludwig, administrator of the Rock Island County Health Department.

In addition, the health department reports 58 new cases of COVID-19 since our last report on Wednesday. The total number of cases is now 18,614. Currently, 26 patients are hospitalized in the county with the virus. The average age of newly infected patients is 39.

“We are starting to see some hopeful news, in regard to fewer daily cases and decreasing hospitalizations,” Ludwig said. “However, we can’t let up because of what we saw last fall with quickly rising cases and hospitalizations. Last fall and early winter’s case surge led to 171 deaths between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31.”

The new cases are

- 1 woman in her 70s
- 4 women in their 60s
- 3 women in their 50s
- 6 women in their 40s
- 3 women in their 30s
- 2 women in their 20s
- 2 women in their teens
- 1 girl in her teens
- 3 men in their 80s
- 4 men in their 70s
- 2 men in their 60s
- 3 men in their 50s
- 3 men in their 40s
- 4 men in their 30s
- 5 men in their 20s
- 6 men in their teens
- 5 boys younger than 13
- 1 boy infant 1 or younger

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

We all must continue to work to prevent further spread of COVID-19 by:

- Getting vaccinated as soon as you can. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find your shot. RICHD offers walk-in vaccines on Tuesdays (Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) and Fridays (Pfizer). The hours for both days are 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.
- Staying home when you are sick.
- Wearing a face covering. A mandate from Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker requires that everyone 2 and older wear a mask in public indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status. The CDC recommends that everyone age 2 and older wear a mask in counties of high or substantial transmission, which includes almost every county in the country.
- Keeping 6 feet of physical distance from others in public if you have not been fully vaccinated
- Washing your hands frequently.

Regarding booster vaccines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, and the Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, have authorized booster vaccines for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States.

“These recommendations are important steps forward as public health and our healthcare partners work to stay ahead of the virus and keep Americans safe,” Ludwig said.

For patients who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18 and older who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18 and who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18 and older who work or live in high-risk settings

For the 15 million people who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots also are recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

Eligible patients may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received, while others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots. If you have questions as to which booster to receive, RICHD recommends you have a discussion with your medical provider or consult reliable and trusted sources.

The health department offers the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines on Tuesdays and Pfizer on Fridays. Both clinics are open from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. No appointments are necessary.

“We urge those eligible for a booster shot to take steps to get this extra protection,” Ludwig said.

“However, the attention that boosters have received should not distract from the fact that 40% of eligible Quad Citians age 12 and older have yet to get vaccinated. This inaction leaves themselves, their families and their community vulnerable. Please get vaccinated as soon as possible.”

In addition, the health department is offering flu vaccines on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. The CDC says patients can receive their flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time.

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