



**Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 9, 2021**

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 16,545
Total deaths in Scott County: 191

Rock Island County – 34 new cases since Monday; total of 12,480
Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 18
Total deaths in Rock Island County: 298

Today's call

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

Clinic next week for second doses from Jan. 19 and earlier

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

Today we gave about 800 vaccines at our mass vaccination clinic. Because of extremely cold weather conditions we moved it to the TaxSlayer Center in Moline. We are grateful for all of the help our community partners have given us during this mass vaccination phase of our COVID-19 response. We won't make an official announcement about the location of next week's site until later this week when we have a better idea of expected weather conditions and can talk with our community partners. We expect to announce the site during Thursday's media briefing.

We have been able to ramp up our response because of a fantastic pool of volunteers from our Medical Reserve Corps. Today's clinic included 24 volunteers from the MRC and EMTs from the Moline and Rock Island fire departments. We also received logistical support from the Rock Island County Emergency Management Agency, deputies from the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department and, of course, our dedicated staff at the Rock Island County Health Department.

We will continue with our online system to register for time slots for our vaccination clinics. However, we are changing the registration day and time for the second dose of the Moderna vaccine for next Tuesday's clinic. In total, we expect more than 800 Moderna vaccine doses will be available for the Feb. 16 clinic, but we hope to give more. We won't have an exact total of vaccine to expect from the Illinois Department of Public Health until later this week. The Feb. 16 clinic will be a Moderna second-dose clinic to match up with the people who received their first dose on or before Jan. 19.

Residents who received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine on or before Jan. 19 will be eligible to register this Thursday for their second doses. The link for second doses will go live on our Facebook page and website at **10 a.m. Thursday**. It will remain open until 3 p.m. that day or until all slots are filled. This is a day earlier than we had made doses available in the past. We will post a link to the slots on our website, but we strongly suggest you use the Facebook link because Facebook can handle the number of people who are trying to get on the page. Our website crashed last week, but we are working with our web host to improve stability.

This is a change from what we announced last week because we are attempting to prevent a bottleneck of second-dose patients. We will announce any changes as necessary to our media partners, on our social media page and our website. As we've said throughout the pandemic, we are in a quickly evolving situation.

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.

If any doses remain available, we will open those doses for first-dose patients at 10 a.m. Friday using a second link. This link also will be available at our Facebook page and website. There is no guarantee that first doses will be available because of almost 900 people received their first dose on Jan. 19.

You will need to show your vaccine record card, your registration email for the Feb. 16 clinic and your identification. A consent form is available on our website, richd.org. We suggest you fill it out before arriving to speed along the process.

As a reminder, the CDC says that second doses should be received by 42 days after the first dose or as soon as it is available. The optimal interval is 28 days for Moderna and 21 days for Pfizer. We are balancing first and second doses with the small amount of vaccine coming into our county. We received 2,450 doses this week to use ourselves and to share with our vaccinating partners. Phase 1B includes 65,000 people in Rock Island County and will take months to complete. We continue to ask for your patience.

Vaccine supply stabilizes in Scott County

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

It seems the only constant throughout this pandemic has been change. In planning our response, these constant changes have forced us to reevaluate and redefine our programs and methods on a daily, sometimes hourly basis. We are reporting today a change that may help to bring some stability to the immunization effort in Scott County as we move forward.

Late last week, the Iowa Department of Public Health announced that it would be guaranteeing a stable supply of vaccine to each county for the remainder of the month of February. Prior to this, each county waited to hear weekly which vaccine they were receiving and how many doses would be received. Now that we know the type of vaccine and the amount of vaccine we will be receiving for several weeks, we can establish a process that will be consistent for our community.

Since first receiving shipments of vaccine, a portion of our weekly vaccine allocation has been provided to our healthcare system partners to administer, to health care providers in their systems, in Phase 1-A, then to their patients 65 years and older, in Phase 1-B. This was to increase the number of people administering vaccine, to “get vaccine into arms”, as is the directive from the Iowa Department of Public Health. As the adage says, “many hands make light work.”

In the first week of Phase 1-B, the portion of our allotment we retained for administration in our Sears clinic, was divided between persons 65 and older, and those in Tier 1, as instructed by IDPH. In order to quickly administer the doses reserved for those 65 and older, we made them available through a public enrollment on our website. As has been the case locally and across the country, this led to a frantic scramble for those precious few doses, technical difficulties, frayed nerves, and disappointment. The technical challenges have been resolved, but the fact that very few doses will be available for a large number of people hoping to obtain them will not change in the near future. Although the enrollment achieved our goal of quickly administering all the doses available, we feel that continuing this method is not the best way to serve our community in these turbulent times.

Beginning this week, all vaccine for the 65+ priority group in Scott County will be provided to our three community-wide health systems: Genesis, UnityPoint Health – Trinity, and Community Health Care, Inc., for administration through their clinics.

This has many benefits:

- Providers have existing processes in place to give vaccine due to their experience in the Phase 1A healthcare worker immunizations.
- Patients and their contact information already exist within these systems and scheduling for appointments is already included in how they do business.
- Providers have relationships with their patients and are a trusted resources for health information and services.
- It will eliminate the need for people to only be able to access vaccine through a computer-based system, which is especially challenging for many in this 65+ priority group.

We recognize that not everyone has a primary care provider and not every primary care provider in our community is connected with these 3 health systems. The Center for Active

Seniors, Inc., CASI, has agreed to continue to help seniors in our community as we move forward. People 65 and older who do not have a provider, or a provider who is not a member of the 3 health systems, can contact CASI at 563-386-7477 to help get connected to the new vaccination process. Seniors who have already called CASI for assistance do not need to call again. CASI will be in contact regarding next steps. We appreciate CASI's willingness to partner with us in this effort.

For the week of February 14th, the number of doses available is 2250, of which 1900 will be transferred to healthcare providers for individuals 65+ and 350 will be reserved for administration at our Sears Clinic for health care workers not yet vaccinated and individuals in Phase 1B, Tier 1.

Total Prime Doses Allocated for 2/8 – 2/13: 2,250 doses

Vaccine Provider	Priority Group	Amounts
Healthcare providers	65+	1900
SCHD	Tier 1	350

People 65+ will be immunized throughout Phase 1B. At the same time, immunizations will be conducted for priority groups in the Phase 1B Tiers. Our department will be directly contacting groups in the Tier designations. This schedule was set by the Iowa Department of Public Health, and we are required by law to comply. Many extremely difficult prioritization decisions have been made due to the limited amount of vaccine.

For most people in the 65+ priority group, this will be the process by which they receive their immunization. Others may wish to actively search for vaccine outside this program. A very limited supply of vaccine is slowly starting to be allocated to local pharmacies by the state and federal government. The pharmacies involved will be in charge of the registration and vaccine administration. The supply in these pharmacies will be very small and we don't expect large numbers of people to be vaccinated through these systems in the next few weeks.

What we hope that people can take away from our announcement today are the following messages:

- Our supply will be stable.
- Healthcare providers will reach out to their 65+ patients to schedule vaccination appointments. People 65 and older who do not have a provider, or a provider who is not a member of the 3 health systems, will be supported by CASI in getting vaccinated.
- Vaccination of Tier 1 priority groups will occur at the same time.

We are extremely grateful for our healthcare partners and the many roles they have played throughout this pandemic. They are rising to the occasion again and will be vaccinating large numbers of residents in our community. I welcome all 3 partners to our briefing today.

Specifics for Scott County's vaccination plan for people 65 and older

Scott County vaccine for the 65+ priority population will be provided to our three community-wide health systems for administration through their clinics:

Community Health Care

- Community Health Care, Inc. is providing COVID vaccines to our established patients in the 65+ age group.
- We have already identified our patients in this category and will be using email and text messages to send links for them to sign up for a vaccine when it is available. We will be prioritizing patients based on identified health risk factors.
- If a CHC patient is concerned we may not have their correct phone number or email address, they can go to our website at www.chcqca.org and click the "COVID Vaccine" button at the top of the page where they will be directed to fill out screening questions for placement on the appropriate wait list.
- If someone does not have access to the internet or has difficulty using online tools, they can call our main scheduling line and will be assisted. We would encourage any CHC patient to ask a friend or relative to assist in using the website first prior to calling.

Genesis Health System

- At this time, there is nothing for you to do if you are a Genesis patient with a primary care provider. Genesis providers have ordered vaccination for all their 1B: 65 and older patients. There is no pre-registration to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through Genesis.
- If you see a Genesis specialist/partner such as an oncologist, pulmonologist, etc., they are also placing vaccine orders for their 1B 65+ population.
- Genesis will contact you to schedule your vaccine, as we continue to receive vaccine from the health departments.
- For those 1B 65+ patients who do not have a Genesis provider, we can connect you with a provider by calling 563-421-DOCS (3627).
- Genesis is also working closely with CASI to schedule and vaccinate those 65+ without a provider.

UnityPoint Health – Trinity

- UnityPoint Health – Trinity is dedicated to providing COVID-19 vaccination opportunities to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible as soon as the vaccine becomes available.

- Once we receive shipment of the vaccine for Tier 1B, we will begin notifying eligible UnityPoint Health patients so they may schedule a vaccination appointment.
- Trinity will be utilizing a combination of phone calls and communication through our text message where patients can self-schedule through a link.
- If patients cannot receive the text message or aren't able to use the link to self-schedule, the system will call them and direct them to call their primary care provider so they can assist them in scheduling.
- Trinity is asking patients not to call our clinics to schedule unless you have received communication from us informing you that you are eligible for the vaccine and we have a spot available for them to schedule.
- Whether you receive the vaccine or not, it's important for everyone to continue wearing face masks, social distancing, washing hands often, and staying home when sick. If you have a specific question about your health, please contact your doctor for advice.

*Individuals in the 65+ priority group with no primary care provider or whose primary care provider is not with one of the 3 community-wide health systems are encouraged to call **CASI at 563-386-7477** for assistance in getting connected to vaccine.*

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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