



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

Feb. 18, 2021

Current COVID-19 case count

Scott County – Total of 16,835

Total deaths in Scott County: 199

Rock Island County – 24 new cases since Wednesday; total of 12,696

Currently in hospital in Rock Island County: 13

Total deaths in Rock Island County: 302

Today's call

A video recording of today's media briefing can be found at

<https://www.scotcountyiowa.com/health/covid19/news>

Vaccine shipments delayed due to winter weather across country

Remarks from Janet Hill, chief operating officer, Rock Island County Health Department

Winter keeps giving us the one-two punch.

First, because of persistently cold weather, the next three Rock Island County Health Department mass vaccination clinics will be held at the TaxSlayer Center in Moline. Those dates are Feb. 23, March 2 and March 9. We will reevaluate weather forecasts and site availability closer to the March 16 clinic and make a location announcement. We remain grateful to both the TaxSlayer Center and the Greater Quad City Auto Auction for graciously sharing their facilities for this historic vaccination effort.

The other punch comes from vaccine shipments being delayed because of record cold temperatures and snowstorms hitting the southern and eastern parts of the United States. Vaccines coming to Rock Island County are routed through UPS shipping hubs in Louisville, Dallas, Philadelphia and the Chicago area, all places dealing with winter's wrath this week.

Without a vaccine shipment arriving this week, we are unable to hold as large a clinic as we had been. For Tuesday, we have cobbled together about 200 doses, some of which are going to people who signed up through our partnership with Alternatives for the Older Adult. If we get another shipment before Monday, we will add slots to the Feb. 23 clinic.

In the meantime, please know that we understand your frustration. We are frustrated, too. We along with our healthcare and pharmacy partners want to vaccinate everyone who wants it. This is how we will get to the other side of the pandemic. But right now, vaccine supply remains

scarce, with or without a winter storm. Please continue to be patient, wear your mask, watch your distance and wash your hands.

Pandemic affecting lead testing numbers

Remarks from Edward Rivers, director, Scott County Health Department

COVID-19 vaccine remains the topic of the year. This means you can hardly turn on a TV or jump on social media without hearing news stories about vaccine brands or vaccine supply. A number of national stories have run recently reporting a large increase in vaccine the US and in Iowa in the upcoming weeks. We are excited to hear that supply will be increasing – we are eager to ensure vaccine is available in Scott County to all who want it. However, increased vaccine supply won't make a difference until it actually reaches out county. Right now, we ask that you continue to remain patient. Your turn will come.

Because the virus is still circulating and additional strains are being found across the U.S., it still remains critically important that we mask and social distance until enough immunity is built up between groups of people that it is safe to relax those measures. We don't want to slip backwards with all of the progress we have made.

The COVID-19 pandemic isn't the only public health challenges that we continue to face as a community. Due to a variety of factors related to the pandemic, we in public health are finding a dramatic decrease in the number of children being tested for lead. Lead testing remains a vital component of childhood health. Partners from Live Lead Free QC are here today to discuss this issue more.

Overview of Live Lead Free QC and importance of lead testing for children

PowerPoint presentation attached from Tony Knobbe, Live Lead Free QC president and member of the Scott County Board of Supervisors, and Janet Hill, chief operating officer at the Rock Island County Health Department and board member of Live Lead Free QC

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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