

Dear Quincy University community:

This second email update of the day is relatively short. We hope all our students, wherever they are, stayed safe today and enjoyed their courses.

This message is the seventeenth update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are a member of the QU community and have not read the previous update messages, we encourage you to search them out in your email folders or read them at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>. The QU coronavirus website also includes a link to our Q&A document, which was last updated on March 23 and will next be updated on March 27.

As of today, Wednesday, March 25, the Adams County (Illinois) Health Department has previously confirmed one COVID-19 case, the first and, thus far, the only case in our region. To the best of our knowledge, the infected person was not connected to QU in any way. This is the same case we have mentioned in several previous email updates.

As many news sources indicate, we are still seeing a steady increase in the number of such cases reported in Illinois, in Missouri, across the nation, and around the world. There are now 1,865 COVID-19 cases in Illinois, with the great majority of those cases in the greater Chicago area. We remind everyone that no part of our nation is likely to avoid COVID-19 cases. The growth in the number of cases for Illinois in the past day can be attributed in part to the increased availability of COVID-19 testing. More information about COVID-19 cases in Illinois, including county-by-county reports, is available at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>.

Quincy, Illinois, is located on the Mississippi River, across the river from Missouri. COVID-19 cases have recently been reported in northeast Missouri. Information regarding COVID-19 cases in Missouri is available at <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/>.

Illinois, including Quincy, continues to operate under a "stay at home" order until the end of the day on April 7. Quincy University's residence halls and cafeteria remain open and will remain open for the semester. This morning, an update email provided extensive information to you about Quincy University's decision to teach exclusively online for the rest of the spring term and to teach exclusively online during Summer 2020. Quincy University's regular activities and face-to-face instruction will resume in Fall 2020.

QU's spring commencement ceremony has been postponed to a later date. We continue to review the results of a survey we sent recently to students intending to graduate at the end of the spring term, with the survey asking for their preferences on the rescheduling of commencement. Our graduates deserve the commencement ceremony they have earned through their years of hard work, and we will give them that ceremony.

Registration for summer and fall classes opens on Monday, March 30, so students and academic advisors are holding virtual meetings this week. If a student hasn't yet scheduled an advising phone call or video call with her or his advisor, the student should do so as soon as possible.

Each of us needs to wash hands, use hand sanitizer, and maintain a physical distance of six feet when we must be out in public. Health professionals recommend we wash our hands for at least 20 seconds. You can sing the chorus of one of several pop songs to make sure you use 20 seconds while washing, as explained at <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/music/story/2020-03-03/coronavirus-hand-washing-20-seconds-happy-birthday-10-songs>. President McGee recommends the chorus of Beyoncé's "Love on Top." We will probably make fun of anyone who admits to using the chorus from Toto's "Africa" for this purpose, but we will pretend to respect your choice.

Our very serious point: Please regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

If you are looking for more campus news, you are encouraged to follow @Quincy_U and @Quincy_UMcGee on Twitter. Resources are always available at www.quincy.edu and at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>.

Today, March 25, has been International Waffle Day. And waffles were available today in the Quincy University cafeteria, because waffles and the cafeteria staff are awesome.

Does President McGee regularly make waffles with his 1962 Westinghouse Waffle Iron, the best waffle maker ever produced? Yes, he does. We now end this digression on the wonders of waffles.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brian McGee, President
Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development