

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the twelfth 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 posted on March 16 and will be updated on March 23.

As of today, March 21, 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 mentioned in our last two 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 753 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 few days 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>.

Yesterday, the Illinois governor announced an executive order directing Illinois residents to "stay at home" or "shelter in place" in order to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This order took effect today, Saturday, March 21, and runs through the end of the day on Tuesday, April 7. Several items related to this stay-at-home order were covered in yesterday's update.

As noted yesterday, Quincy University's residence halls and cafeteria will remain open for the semester. The campus Facilities team will continue the deep cleaning and sanitizing of our buildings, using cleaning products approved by the CDC. Essential staff will be allowed to come to campus in order to care for our students and ensure the support of our online classes.

Our campus is now closed to the public, consistent with the Illinois stay-at-home order. For those on campus, we continue to have a 24-hour security presence, seven days a week, and we have on-call maintenance so that safety and support services are provided for our community. Those on campus should also review the hours of operation that have previously been distributed for campus buildings and offices. Some facilities will not be available until further notice, including the pool in the Health and Fitness Center.

Again, **all classes will resume on Monday, March 23, as previously scheduled, and will be taught exclusively online.** Because of the new order from the State of Illinois, the earliest day we can return to face-to-face instruction at QU is Wednesday, April 8. As mentioned in yesterday's campus news email, the QU community should expect an announcement on March 25 about our schedule for teaching online, following a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Quincy University Board of Trustees.

We have had some questions about mail service. We will continue to provide for mail service and are reviewing our processes for handling mail. More information about mail service will be provided in the next few days.

Now, for the health and safety reminders, which we have provided for twelve consecutive updates: 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. For many people, this disease has been, is, and will be dangerous and deadly. We need to slow its spread. Each of us needs to do his or her part.

If you are looking for more campus news, you are encouraged to follow @Quincy_U and @Quincy_UMcGee on Twitter. If you've never seen President McGee in a QU sweatshirt, check out his 19-second Saturday night post at www.twitter.com/Quincy_uMcGee. Resources are always available at www.quincy.edu and at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>.

Given the global news, it is understandable that we fear this disease, and we fear for our future. Families across the world are experiencing very personal and painful consequences of this pandemic. As those of us not yet directly affected by COVID-19 look for ways to make sense of our experience, let's begin by supporting those who are suffering the direct consequences of job loss, illness, and death. Further, many of those not yet directly affected are still struggling in a new and increasingly lonely era of physical distance. All those affected need our compassion, our prayers, and, in some cases, our direct assistance. Even a phone call to a family member can make someone feel less isolated. Hawks, now is the time to care for one another.

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