

Dear Quincy University community:

**Remember:** Tomorrow, Monday, March 23, QU returns from spring break with classes taught entirely online. Please email your faculty if you have questions about the start of classes. Also, while classes begin tomorrow, many faculty and staff are working from home. Please email your faculty and staff for assistance if at all possible, rather than calling. Also, if you are a student or an employee on campus, please email faculty and staff to confirm their availability to speak with you, whether face-to-face or, preferably, by phone.

This message is the thirteenth 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 by tomorrow evening, Monday, March 23.

As of today, Sunday, March 22, 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 1,049 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>.

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. 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 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.

Students have done an excellent job in informing Dr. Tracy about their movements. We deeply appreciate their cooperation and thank them for being so attentive to these important instructions. We continue to ask all students to contact Dr. Tracy by email before returning to campus if they (a) have traveled more than 50 miles from Quincy, Illinois, or (b) if they have been away from their residence hall room (if applicable) for even one night.

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. The QU community should expect an announcement on March 25 about any updates to 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 assistance with textbooks. For any student or faculty support questions concerning textbooks or instructional materials, please contact Ben Means at the QU bookstore ([bmeans@follett.com](mailto:bmeans@follett.com)) or Brendan McCrudden in the Student Success Center ([mccrubr@quincy.edu](mailto:mccrubr@quincy.edu)).

These are difficult and emotional times for many members of our community. If you need support from a counselor or therapist, we can help. Please contact Dr. Tracy at [tracych@quincy.edu](mailto:tracych@quincy.edu). Also, anyone who wishes to speak with or pray with Fr. John Doctor or Fr. Bill Spencer should contact them at [spencwi@quincy.edu](mailto:spencwi@quincy.edu) or 314-603-7748. Any student looking for spiritual support, whatever the student's faith tradition, will be assisted. We encourage you as well to see Fr. John's email earlier today for the prayer invoking St. Roch, Patron of the Sick. Finally, while no masses or formal services are being held currently at the QU Chapel, anyone on campus who wishes to pray in the chapel is welcome to do so.

As always, please don't forget: 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. My thanks to everyone on campus and in the Quincy region who we see working diligently to follow these guidelines.

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](http://www.quincy.edu) and at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>.

Tomorrow will be a big day, the first day when all QU classes are taught online. It may be that tomorrow will be the most significant teaching experiment in the history of the university, given the significance of this mid-semester change in teaching formats. Please be patient, as there will be plenty of first-day bugs in the system. Things will get better and easier over time, as many of us gain experience in the new format. President McGee, Dr. Reed, and Dr. Tracy all have significant personal experience with teaching and learning online and are unanimous in supporting this shift to online classes for the safety of our community.

Finally, as the semester resumes, please continue to take care of yourself. These are stressful days for all members of our community. Get outdoors. Eat well. Exercise. And, if you cry or feel emotional, know there is nothing wrong with that. Give yourself permission to be a human being.

And, whatever you do, please don't hoard toilet paper. Please.

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