

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the tenth update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope these updates remain helpful to you!

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.

As of today, March 19, the Adams County (Illinois) Health Department has confirmed one COVID-19 case in the county, the first case in our region. To the best of our knowledge, the infected person was not connected to QU in any way.

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 422 COVID-19 cases in Illinois, with infections reported for individuals with an age range from 9-91. 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. In response to an earlier question, the great majority of Illinois COVID-19 cases are in or near Chicago, though there are now COVID-19 cases in 22 Illinois counties.

We encourage you to reflect or pray, whatever your spiritual tradition might be, regarding the loss of life from COVID-19 and the suffering of those who are mourning their loved ones around the world.

As you know, we continue to prepare on campus for online teaching and the resumption of classes on Monday, March 23, with courses taught exclusively online through at least April 3. In recent days, some members of our community have asked if we will continue with online teaching after April 3. As we have always believed, there is a good chance we will continue beyond April 3 with online instruction, but QU has not made that decision yet. The Executive Committee of the Quincy University Board of Trustees will meet next week, and we will update you on our schedule following that meeting. Until then, please concentrate on getting prepared for Monday's online classes.

We can tell you that we intend for the QU campus to remain open throughout the semester. We specifically and very clearly intend to keep our residence halls and cafeteria open, and we are doing so while remaining in daily contact with the Adams County Health Department. Social distancing continues across campus, and we continue to deep clean and sanitize the residence halls with cleaning products recommended by the CDC. I am very grateful to the Facilities staff for their incredibly hard work on campus cleaning. Some high-use surfaces are being cleaned multiple times a day.

Again, and to be clear, no student is required to stay in the residence halls while courses are taught online. As we know from talking to them, the students who are staying in our residence hall rooms have good reasons for doing so.

The majority of QU students are not living in the residence halls presently. We expect most students will choose to stay at home, and away from campus, until (and if) face-to-face teaching resumes. With a modest number of students spread across seven residence halls and several individual houses, one of our students could easily encounter more people in an apartment complex than while living on campus right now.

Earlier today, students, faculty, and staff received emails about library resources, a revised campus building schedule, and test-optional undergraduate admissions. Please review those carefully. The library email is highly relevant to those who are NOT currently on campus. Regarding test-optional admissions, we are responding to an extraordinary situation when ACT and SAT testing is no longer available, but we also are implementing an important reform that has been adopted at many leading colleges and universities.

Yesterday, our faculty and staff received an email message announcing the university's temporary COVID-19 policy. Because of new legislation passed by Congress and signed into law today by President Trump, our temporary policy will be revised. We will supply the revised policy to faculty and staff as soon as updates to it are complete.

Our campus buildings remain open, but, as noted yesterday, many QU employees will be working from home, beginning next week. To maintain social distancing, we strongly encourage all students to contact faculty, other students, and staff by phone, email, or video conference. If a face-to-face meeting is absolutely necessary for some reason, please schedule that meeting in advance so that any necessary health screening can be arranged and so that adjustments can be made to ensure social distancing is possible.

In response to a directive from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, public masses are not currently being held in the Quincy University Chapel. We look forward to a return to this essential part of our life on campus.

COVID-19 updates from major healthcare providers in the Quincy area are available at <https://www.blessinghealth.org/coronavirus> and at <https://quincymedgroup.com/news/covid-19-hotline/>. There is much valuable information at these sites.

You are now rereading the tiresome paragraph in our daily message where we remind everyone to wash hands regularly, use hand sanitizer, and practice social distancing. Anyone now on the Quincy University campus should expect anyone they meet to remain at least six feet away during conversations. We hope that all Hawks everywhere are following these same basic instructions for avoiding infection. If you aren't, well, shame on you.

If you are looking for more campus news, you are encouraged to follow @Quincy\_U and @Quincy\_UMcGee on Twitter. President McGee's Twitter account will continue to repost area COVID-19 news and scenes from Quincy and the QU campus. Resources are always available at [www.quincy.edu](http://www.quincy.edu) and at <https://www.w.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>.

We are asking students and other community members to tell us their strangest or most amusing stories about experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have a story you can't wait to share, please email President McGee directly at [president@quincy.edu](mailto:president@quincy.edu). Some stories may be shared via *QUniverse* or social media. We've received one story so far, and I am sure there are more out there. We want to know how people are entertaining themselves, if nothing else.

It was a warm, rainy day in Quincy. You can feel spring coming. And we know better times are ahead. Keep your chins up, Hawks, and enjoy your final days of spring break.

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