

Dear QU campus community:

The COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) situation in the United States continues to evolve. Quincy University has been actively monitoring the latest information on COVID-19 and is taking all necessary steps, according to the recommendations of the relevant authorities, to protect the university community's health and well-being. For the foreseeable future, we will be sharing regular updates on COVID-19, at a minimum, once a week.

As of today, March 9, 2020, there are no known cases of COVID-19 at Quincy University or in the Quincy region. At this time, all classes and other activities are scheduled to operate as usual at the beginning of next week, when all return from spring break.

There are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Illinois (<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>) and Missouri, and we are working with the Adams County Health Department to plan for the possibility of confirmed cases in the region or at the university. In such a scenario, we will follow the most recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Adams County Health Department. We will provide timely updates to you regarding university operations based on any new information from these authorities.

Anyone exhibiting symptoms of a respiratory illness (e.g., cough, fever, shortness of breath) should stay home from class and/or work and avoid others for the duration of those symptoms. Students exhibiting these symptoms should contact Dr. Tracy for guidance at [tracych@quincy.edu](mailto:tracych@quincy.edu). Faculty and staff should notify their supervisors of such symptoms, and supervisors will inform Dr. Tracy of such reports.

If you have traveled outside of the United States over spring break or have been around anyone who has been ill or possibly infected with COVID-19, please contact Dr. Tracy at [tracych@quincy.edu](mailto:tracych@quincy.edu) before returning to Quincy University. The Adams County Health Department would then be contacted to determine next steps.

The most effective steps you can take right now to protect yourself and your community are to:

- Avoid contact with people who are ill.
- Refrain from touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. (See CDC handwashing video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZw4Ga3jg3E&feature=youtu.be>.)
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

- Stay home if you are ill—do not go to work or classes.

Facemasks are not recommended for healthy people who want to avoid contracting respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.

If you need medical attention, call your provider before going to a healthcare facility.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to make decisions and develop plans for the protection of our university community.

Sincerely,

Dr, Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development