

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the twenty-fifth 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 most recently updated on Friday, March 27.

Reminder: Registration for QU summer and fall classes opened this week. You can always contact academic advisors and success coaches for help with registration. Students should be aware that only an academic advisor can open the registration portal.

Two COVID-19 cases have been confirmed so far in the Quincy region. To the best of our knowledge, neither is connected to QU.

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 7,695 COVID-19 cases in Illinois, with the great majority of those cases in the Chicago area. We remind everyone that no part of our nation is likely to avoid COVID-19 cases. 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>.

There currently are 1,834 COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

As announced two days ago, Illinois, including Quincy, is now operating under a “stay at home” order until the end of the day on Thursday, April 30.

Quincy University's residence halls and cafeteria remain open and will remain open for the semester, while QU students will take courses exclusively online for the remainder of the spring semester. As announced previously, QU's spring commencement ceremony has been postponed to a later date.

At QU, Facilities has continued its enhanced daily cleaning protocols using the best CDC practices for sanitizing areas, with a focus on commonly touched areas. In addition, Facilities has completed detailed cleaning and sanitizing of the air systems in QU buildings to improve the overall health and safety of the occupants. New air filters are installed after the cleaning and sanitizing process is completed.

Tomorrow, current Quincy University students will receive a handout by email that provides important advice on how to be successful in online courses. My thanks to Dr. Reed for having this handout prepared. And, as a tip, we suggest that you never challenge Dr. Reed to a *Lord of the Rings* trivia competition.

Thank you to all the QU students who have filled out the student survey sent to you today and to those who will be doing so very soon. We will be reading each response and we will be addressing as many concerns as we can and doing so quickly. Please look for an email from Dr.

Tracy on Friday to address the questions about summer, moving out, tutoring, and supplemental instruction. We appreciate your time spent completing this survey, and it will help us more fully address your concerns and needs.

If you were planning to graduate this spring, but are now planning to complete a ninth undergraduate semester or fifth year at QU, please be sure to speak with your academic advisor about whether or not it would be beneficial to add an additional major or minor to your degree plan to ensure maximum eligibility for federal and state financial aid. Federal awarding rules require financial aid dollars to be used to fund college courses that are required for degree completion. Once you have met degree requirements, federal eligibility is reduced. For more information about financial aid, contact Tom Oliver at tom.oliver@quincy.edu.

We recommend to you a beautiful essay written by QU senior Jess Abrego for QUMedia. Jess does a beautiful job of conveying her sense of loss where her senior year is concerned. We're with you, Jess, and we're proud of all that you and your fellow Hawks have overcome already. See <https://qumedia.net/category/editorial/>.

Yes, this message is still for you: Each of us needs to wash hands (for 30 seconds!), use hand sanitizer, and maintain a physical distance of six feet when we must be out in public. While sinks and handwashing are disturbingly absent from *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*, we inhabitants of the twenty-first century will continue to use them.

Speaking of President McGee's nerdy preference for science fiction, we are told that some of you out there would choose *Star Wars* over *Star Trek*. A 1977 *Star Wars* movie poster is displayed at the President's House, so President McGee isn't going to judge those who prefer *Star Wars*. The *Star Wars* universe works perfectly well for those of us who enjoy dreadful acting, cheesy '90s-era computer-generated images, and implausible and repetitive plots. We especially appreciate the way The Force is explained by muttered and incomprehensible references to midichlorian counts. Sure, *Star Wars* is great.

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/>. President McGee is eagerly awaiting his 350th Twitter follower. Come on, people, let's get this done.

For some teams in Major League Baseball, today would have been opening day, the first game of what ordinarily is a leisurely 162-game season. For many of us, baseball's absence is a fundamental betrayal of all that is good in the world, even when one acknowledges the oversized salary of a typical starting pitcher.

Locally, Dr. Tracy, a child of Missouri, roots for the St. Louis Cardinals, while President McGee's fandom is all about the Chicago Cubs. If the two of us can put aside this famous baseball rivalry to write 25 COVID-19 updates, then anything is possible.

Sleep well, Hawks. And, for all our students now taking online courses, remember, as they say on Dagobah: "Do. Or do not. There is no try."

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