

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the thirty-ninth 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, you could search them out in your email folders or read them at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>. Unless there are major developments tomorrow, the next Quincy University update will be emailed to you on Sunday, April 26.

The QU coronavirus website also includes a link to our Q&A document, which was updated today, April 24.

A total of 33 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 18 of whom are considered recovered. Some of these cases spread within households. There are no current hospitalizations in Adams County linked to COVID-19. One Missouri resident has died in Adams County of causes related to COVID-19.

There are now 39,658 COVID-19 cases in Illinois, with the great majority of those cases in the Chicago area. 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>. These QU updates on COVID-19 cases are taken from the public reports of state and county agencies.

There currently are 6,625 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Both Illinois and Missouri are now operating under stay-at-home orders. The Illinois order is now scheduled to last until the end of the day on Saturday, May 30. The Missouri order will last until the end of the day on Sunday, May 3.

As the end of the semester approaches, students should begin thinking about book returns. Instructions for returning textbooks are available in the Q&A document. Please help us get this right, Hawks. Books should be returned by May 31, 2020.

The details of the newest Illinois stay-at-home directive will allow parents and students to move out of QU residence halls and campus houses during the month of May. No change is required in the current move-out schedule. Information about move-out will continue to be provided by Dr. Tracy via email.

New information about commencement has been added to the Q&A document. Commencement following the 2020 Spring Semester originally was to be held in May. This commencement will be rescheduled as soon as possible after the stay-at-home order is lifted in Illinois and after QU is permitted to schedule events involving more than 25 people. Students and their families should expect that commencement will be modified to omit handshakes and to allow physical distancing for all participants, including audience members. Ample notice will be provided to students and families to allow people to make travel plans for commencement. Graduating students who are unable to attend the rescheduled commencement will have the option to participate in the commencement following the 2020 Fall Semester.

As an added bonus in these challenging times, any senior or other graduate residing in or near Quincy is welcome to pose with President McGee for photos at the St. Francis of Assisi statue (in front of historic Francis Hall), beginning June 1 or whenever the stay-at-home directive is lifted in Illinois. Photo sessions are by appointment, and seniors can email Ms. Julie Budine at hendrju@quincy.edu for their appointment. President McGee will wear his academic regalia for these photos and will look as official as is humanly possible. Students are welcome to wear graduation gowns or to dress nicely for these photos. Appropriate physical distancing will be required for anyone participating in these photos.

As has been noted in previous messages and in the Q&A document, our partners at National Management continue their deep cleaning of QU campus buildings to maintain a safe environment.

This paragraph is critically important, even though it reminds us of *Groundhog Day*, the movie: Each of us needs to wash hands for 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer, and maintain a physical distance of six feet when we must be out in public. About 25 updates ago, President McGee admitted that he doesn't care for the smell or feel of hand sanitizer. He now reports that he's gotten used to it, and he's sure you've done the same.

In addition to physical distancing, the CDC recommends the use in public places of simple cloth face coverings to reduce COVID-19 infections. Beginning on May 1, those of us in Illinois will be required to use face coverings in public when physical distancing cannot be maintained. So, Hawks, stock up on those flattering face masks.

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's tweets provide the latest evidence of the dangerous squirrel contempt for humankind.

We assured someone we would state the obvious in tonight's message: Household disinfectants should be used only as directed, and consistent with their instructions.

President McGee's preference in Lysol(c) disinfectant sprays is "crisp linen," the smell of which reminds him of a cool, refreshing rain on a sunny summer morning. It also reminds him of a warm slice of apple pie, fresh out of Grandma's oven and served with love, a scoop of French vanilla ice cream, and a drizzle of honey. Of course, no matter how sweet the smell, President McGee would never misuse his preferred Lysol spray, and neither should you. The same goes for bleach and dozens of other household disinfectants.

Now, on to another important topic: There are many things to like about New York City, where in ordinary times you can watch a great Broadway show, eat a respectable slice of pizza, or pay a staggering sum to watch what some people claim is professional baseball. However, we were recently dismayed to learn that NYC has long celebrated January 21 as "Squirrel Appreciation Day." Perhaps the New York squirrels have some pathetic need for appreciation, but we believe the QU squirrels already think too highly of themselves. Stay humble, squirrel queen, and don't expect us to throw you a party.

We suspect New Yorkers insufficiently appreciate the lessons of the great Long Island squirrel attack of 1921. Learn from your own history, Big Apple.

Back at QU, we continue to pray for all those affected by COVID-19, including members of our community. Take care of yourselves and one another, Hawks. Enjoy your weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development