

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the fortieth 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 Tuesday, April 28.

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

A total of 34 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 19 of whom are considered recovered. Some of these cases spread within households. There is one current hospitalization in Adams County linked to COVID-19. One Missouri resident has died in Adams County of causes related to COVID-19.

There are now 43,903 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 6,997 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.

All residential students will receive an emailed reminder from Dr. Tracy, with instructions on how to schedule an appointment to move off campus. As previously noted, the deadline for moving off campus has been extended to May 22, but students will have to make an appointment to do so. Please read Dr. Tracy's email and respond accordingly.

As noted in the last update, new information about commencement has been added to the Q&A document.

Milan Kundera, the famous writer, once described happiness as "the longing for repetition." We suspect you don't long to read this much-repeated passage: 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. And, if you do long for repetition, *Groundhog Day* is now playing on Netflix.

The *New York Times* persuaded a famous Broadway composing team to write "Twenty Seconds," a song intended to go along with handwashing. We don't love it, but anything would be better than the chorus from Toto's "Africa." See <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/well/we-wrote-you-a-hand-washing-song-listen-up.html>.

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. As we're sure you expected, President McGee already has secured a brown facemask so that he can show his infection-fighting QU spirit. Go Hawks!

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/>. Even the appalling Tweets promoting *The Bachelor* will not discourage us from refreshing our Twitter feeds. To be clear, we really, really, really don't care about the Brandon-and-Savannah drama, such as it is.

As our students come to the end of the semester, we pray for the successful conclusion of their coursework and for the faculty and staff who have made this extraordinary semester possible. Everyone at QU has richly earned the waffle-appreciation party President McGee will be hosting when all of us return to campus. When the time comes, we won't stop making those waffles until everyone has had one. Or two. Or six. Because who doesn't love waffles?

Enjoy your week, Hawks.

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