

Dear Quincy University community:

Tomorrow marks the beginning of Holy Week for many Christians, while Wednesday is the first Seder of Passover for our Jewish sisters and brothers. Whatever your faith tradition, we wish you a meaningful and moving week, despite our COVID-19 challenges.

This message is the twenty-seventh 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.

In addition to two COVID-19 cases that previously had been reported in the Quincy region, a third case was confirmed yesterday. To the best of our knowledge, the three cases are not 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 10,357 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 2,291 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Yesterday, the state of Missouri announced a stay-at-home order, effective Monday, April 6. Illinois, including Quincy, continues to operate under a stay-at-home order that took effect on March 21 and is now scheduled to last until the end of the day on Thursday, April 30.

To review, 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. QU's spring commencement ceremony has been postponed to a later date.

Yesterday, in our completely unbiased opinion, was an exciting day for student email at QU. Current Quincy University students received a handout by email that provides important advice on how to be successful in online courses. Students also received an email from Dr. Tracy that addresses housing, tutoring, mental health and other questions. Students will want to read these emails carefully.

This reminder isn't going to change any time soon: 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. Yesterday, we gave you the great news that a Star Trek hand sanitizer holder was

available on Etsy. For those of you who have an inexplicable preference for Star Wars over Star Trek, we suppose we should mention that hand sanitizer holders for Star Wars also are available at Etsy. President McGee is sure, though, you will make the correct choice in fashion accessories for hand sanitizer.

Yesterday, and in addition to physical distancing, the CDC began recommending the use in public places of simple cloth face coverings to reduce COVID-19 infections. The CDC recommendation is described at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>.

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 Saturday morning waffles were delicious, or so he alleges. A photo of those waffles is available at https://twitter.com/Quincy_uMcGee/status/1246493643130765313. It says something about our current Saturday-night entertainment options if you think a breakfast-food picture is worth your time.

We are told that a waffle-themed party is now expected by students when all of us return to campus this fall. President McGee eagerly endorses this idea and promises to help make those waffles, including gluten- and dairy-free waffles.

We think everything is better with waffles or the promise of waffles, including COVID-19 updates. Sleep easy, Hawks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development