

Dear Quincy University community:

Today marked the beginning of Holy Week for many Christians. May God bless all those who are completing their Lenten journey and preparing for the Easter triduum, even while coping with the consequences of a global pandemic.

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 last 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 three COVID-19 cases that previously had been reported in the Quincy region, four new cases were confirmed earlier today. To the best of our knowledge, none of these seven cases 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 11,256 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 2,367 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

The state of Missouri has announced a stay-at-home order, which takes effect tomorrow, 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 and for the summer terms. QU's spring commencement ceremony has been postponed to a later date.

It's time for that all-important twenty-seventh daily reminder: 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. In addition to physical distancing, the CDC now recommends the use in public places of simple cloth face coverings to reduce COVID-19 infections. While most of us will use whatever soap is handy, a very thorough 15 seconds of internet research found such soap brands as Hawk Soap, Mystic Hawk Soap, and Hawkmoon Soap. We have no idea if these soaps are any good, but it appears a Hawk-themed soap purchase is one way to fight COVID-19 and show

your over-the-top QU pride. You can even sing the first four lines of the QU alma mater while washing your hands, which takes about 20 seconds and will encourage some of you to stop singing the refrain from Toto's "Africa." (We're begging you.)

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 regularly features images of campus on Twitter, as we know many of you are missing your Quincy home and friends.

In the future, President McGee will limit the waffle photos on his Twitter account, as he is still deeply disappointed that yesterday's waffle post only received 15 Likes. Fortunately, every day provides a new opportunity to excel in waffle making and eating. Perhaps waffles get more respect when described using Instagram or a TikTok.

Holy Week and the Passover holiday mark events of profound religious importance. In this year, our religious observances will be strangely altered, as COVID-19 casts a dark shadow over what ordinarily are deeply meaningful days of commemoration and, ultimately, celebration. We will prepare for religious observances, knowing that pandemic-induced pain and loss await us in the weeks and months to come. But we are people of hope. We will not live in fear or abandon those in need. We are Hawks. We will soar, once again, without any requirement that we use Hawk-themed soap to do so.

May God bless us all those who are suffering during this week of great religious and spiritual renewal.

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