

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the thirty-first 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 March 27 and will next be updated tomorrow, Friday, April 10. The updated Q&A document will contain new information on multiple topics, including the question of room-and-board refunds.

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Registration for QU summer and fall classes opened last week. If you aren't registered already, now's the time. As a reminder, all QU summer classes are being taught online.

Earlier today, five new COVID-19 cases were confirmed for the Quincy region. Including the five new cases, a total of 24 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County). Some of these 24 cases spread within households. Consistent with recent policy changes of the Adams County Health Department, we will no longer comment on specific cases, whether now or in the future.

As many news sources indicate, we are still seeing a steady increase in the number of such cases, whether reported in Illinois, in Missouri, across the nation, and around the world. There are now 16,422 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 3,539 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 Thursday, April 30.

To review, Quincy University's residence halls and cafeteria are 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.

We will persist in telling the noble story of cleanliness and caution during a pandemic: 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.

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/>. By popular demand, President McGee's 680th tweet shows his latest chicken-and-waffles-with-honey-mustard creation. And, yes, haters, he knows this combination is a nutritional and caloric disaster. But, yum.

Today, we recognized Holy Thursday, also called Maundy Thursday, which many Christians understand as the start of the Easter Triduum. Holy Thursday commemorates The Last Supper and the institution of Holy Eucharist. The Last Supper was the celebration of a Passover Seder. Tomorrow is Good Friday for many Christians and commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. For Catholics whose age qualifies them, Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence.

Finally, Hawks, we have seen reports that *The Simpsons* predicted the COVID-19 pandemic in a 1993 episode. We really don't care about these reports, but they are a hoax. While the 1993 episode did describe a dangerous (and imaginary) variation of the flu, there was nothing in the episode that was unique to COVID-19. At different times, the Simpsons arguably were accurate in forecasting the development of FaceTime, smartwatches, and the election of President Trump, but their predictive powers in the early 1990s didn't extend to COVID-19. We shouldn't put the Simpsons in charge of American public health policy, or even Moe's Tavern.

We will leave you to guess whether it was Dr. Tracy or President McGee who was breathlessly watching every episode of *The Simpsons* in 1993, always while completing graduate school homework.

May you have a most restful sleep.

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