

Dear Quincy University community:

We have three more days of final examinations and B Session courses, Hawks. Good luck! The end, blessedly, is near.

This message is the forty-third 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/>.

In anticipation of the semester's end and a reduced number of students and other community members regularly following QU news, the pandemic email updates for May and June will appear on Monday of each week for those months and on other days of the week as needed. The next Quincy University update will be emailed to you no later than Monday, May 11.

The QU coronavirus website also includes a link to our Q&A document, which was last updated on April 24 and will be updated again no later than May 11.

The current Q&A document includes information about textbook returns. Students are reminded to return textbooks beginning this week.

A total of 40 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 27 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, as has one Adams County resident.

There are now 63,840 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 8,754 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Illinois continues to have a stay-at-home order, which presently is scheduled to last until the end of the day on Saturday, May 30. Missouri no longer has a stay-at-home order, but many restrictions are in effect for everyday life in the state.

Graduation caps and gowns for the 2020 Spring commencement will be available in the QU Bookstore after June 1. There is no need to pick up caps and gowns until a date has been announced for the rescheduled Spring commencement, though students will be welcome to pick up caps and gowns after the bookstore reopens. More information about graduation caps and gowns, along with any other commencement updates, will be provided near the end of May.

Some QU students are eligible for a direct payment of relief funds, which have been provided to QU for this purpose by the federal government. Starting tomorrow at noon, QU students may

apply for this direct financial assistance from the first round of CARES Act relief funding. All applications for first-round CARES Act funding at QU must be received by 5:00 p.m. (Central Time) on Friday, May 15. *Beginning tomorrow at noon, students wishing to be considered for emergency assistance should read the application information on the University's coronavirus website and click on the link to submit an application.* The application process is easy to complete. Consistent with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, priority will be given to providing assistance to students demonstrating high financial need as evidenced by the FAFSA. If you have questions not answered on the CARES Act page, please send an email to the committee at HawksHelp@quincy.edu.

We swear we are not making this up. Tomorrow, May 5, has been celebrated for many years as World Hand Hygiene Day, as sponsored by the World Health Organization. So, out of respect for hand hygiene, and good hygiene during a world pandemic, here's the usual 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 recommends the use in public places of simple cloth face coverings to reduce COVID-19 infections. Those of us in Illinois are now required to use face coverings in public when physical distancing cannot be maintained. If you hope to learn more about the latest facemask fashions, including future facemask designs with rhinestones and feathers, check out <https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/fashion/2020/05/04/coronavirus-face-masks-new-way-make-fashion-statement/3076517001/>. We'll see if these fashion statements make their way to Quincy.

If you are looking for campus news on topics other than fashionable facemasks, 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/>. We promise that President McGee's recent tweet on topsoil quality and lawn care is not the most exciting thing he has ever said on Twitter.

In addition to World Hand Hygiene Day on May 5, today is Star Wars Day, as in "May the 4th be with you." Again, we swear we are not making this up. President McGee is pleased to report that, five hours after he tweeted about this subject, not a single person liked Star Wars Day. He takes this as evidence either (A) no one around here cares about Star Wars or (B) our students, faculty, and staff are far too busy with finals to pay attention to tweets about another made-up holiday designed to sell Baby Yoda Plush Figures, currently available online for a mere \$26.99. Given President McGee's affection for Star Trek, he cheerfully assumes all of you picked Option A.

Again, Hawks, good luck on those final exams, papers, and projects. And, in the words of the unforgettable and underappreciated Yogurt, may the schwartz be with you.

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