

Dear Quincy University community:

It's now mid-July, hawks. We are a little over a month away from the start of the fall academic term at QU. It's well past time to get going on those summer projects, should you want to complete them during the current summer.

This message is the fifty-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/>.

The next Quincy University update will be emailed to you no later than Tuesday, July 21. **An online town-hall meeting will be hosted on Wednesday, July 15, at 5:30 p.m.** Information about the town-hall meeting was emailed to students and other members of our community earlier today.

A total of 185 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 60 of whom are considered recovered. Some of these cases spread within households. There are 12 current hospitalizations 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 154,799 COVID-19 cases in Illinois. 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 27,890 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Illinois and Missouri no longer have stay-at-home orders, but some restrictions are in effect for everyday life in both states. Out-of-state travelers to Chicago who plan to stay in the city for a time should read about the city's quarantine-on-arrival order affecting travelers from 15 U.S. states. No such order exists for other parts of Illinois.

Students who graduated at the conclusion of the 2020 Spring Semester have been contacted about our new date for the **QU Spring Commencement**. The rescheduled commencement will be held on **September 5, 2020**. We will hold multiple spring commencement ceremonies on that day, with graduates given the opportunity to sign up for and attend one of the ceremonies. Physical distancing will be possible during each ceremony. Graduates will be able to invite a limited number of friends and family to attend the ceremony, which also will be streamed online. Unless weather

conditions prevent us from doing so, the rescheduled spring commencement will take place at the QU Football and Lacrosse Stadium. President McGee will deliver the commencement address, but he will not be permitted to reference specific *Star Trek* television episodes or attempt to say anything in Klingon or Vulcan. Much more information will be provided over the summer to inform and prepare students and their families for the September 5 commencement.

Yesterday, Dr. Tracy provided an email to students and families about COVID-19-related requirements for coming to the QU campus in the fall semester. This important message covered several topics, including student check-in dates, self-quarantine and masking requirements, and the personal medical kit requirement. Most of the questions thus far concerning Dr. Tracy's email dealt with the new QU student requirement for COVID-19 viral testing at the beginning of the 2020 fall semester. Answers to several questions on this topic are covered in the most recent update to the QU COVID-19 Q&A document, which is available at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/> and is so thorough it includes four-month-old television footage from Albuquerque. Thank you for your understanding where this new requirement for COVID-19 testing is concerned, all with the goal of keeping our community safe.

If we see one more public service announcement on this topic, exhausted screams of frustration may result. And yet, we'll say it again: 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. Washing hands thoroughly with soap is a better option than the use of hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer should be rubbed on one's hands for 30 seconds or more, according to the CDC. In addition to physical distancing, the CDC now recommends the use in public places of simple cloth face coverings to reduce COVID-19 infections.

Should you want to learn more about the best of the early 2020 COVID-19 public service announcements on handwashing, as broadcast in many countries, see <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/04/811609241/coronavirus-fears-have-led-to-a-golden-age-of-hand-washing-psas>.

If you are looking for campus news over the summer, 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 are making great progress in preparing the QU Main Campus and North Campus for the return of students in August. We will be happy to see you all on campus, when

that time comes, and we at QU pray for your health and safety. For now, rather than use Klingonese or Vulcan, we will revert to Huttese: *Me jewz ku!*

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development

P.S. Next week's COVID-19 update will come to you on Tuesday, not Monday. We are sorry for disrupting our usual schedule and hope that doing so does not compromise your sense of the order of the universe.