

Dear Quincy University community:

The fall weather has arrived! Let's find those jackets and sweatshirts and enjoy those crisp fall mornings and evenings.

This message is the sixty-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, you could search them out in your email folders or read them at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>. The QU coronavirus website contains a video highlighting many safety procedures for the QU community. The website also includes a Q&A document. The next Quincy University update will be emailed to you no later than Monday, October 5.

Here are some of the most relevant data points at present for Quincy University and COVID-19:

- Eighty-nine positive COVID-19 viral tests have been reported this semester for QU students after those students arrived at the university.
- Twenty-six of those 89 students currently have active COVID-19 infections and are in quarantine.
- Sixty-three of those 89 students have completed their quarantine periods and are not active cases.
- Eighty-one students are currently in quarantine, including all active positive cases. Many students have been released from quarantine since the last update, which explains why the number of quarantined students has declined since Thursday's report.
- Over 100 rooms on campus currently are available for quarantine, an increase in room availability since the last update.

The number of students in quarantine changes almost daily. For example, 60 students are scheduled for the conclusion of their quarantine at the end of the current week.

The 81 QU students who are quarantined at present have been placed in quarantine (1) because they have active COVID-19 infections, (2) as a precaution because of one or more COVID-19 symptoms, (3) because they have been exposed to someone who is being tested, or (4) they have been in close contact with someone who has had a positive test. **As noted in previous messages, people may be quarantined who have not had a positive test and may never have a positive test.** The majority of those who are quarantined in the typical week have not had a positive COVID-19 test. Because of the different reasons for which people are quarantined, some people

may only be quarantined for a few days, while others may be quarantined for two weeks or more.

We have new surveillance testing of over 100 individuals scheduled for next week. This routine testing responds to NCAA testing guidelines and also is part of QU's overall strategy for monitoring and reducing COVID-19 infections on campus. You may recall that surveillance testing is testing of people who do not currently have COVID-19 symptoms and have not been exposed to someone who is COVID-19-positive. Such testing helps us to find people with infections who will never show symptoms (i.e., asymptomatic cases) or people who are not yet showing symptoms, though they are infected and will soon experience symptoms. Many other universities, including other universities in our region, are doing little or no surveillance testing, and their COVID-19 numbers are not comparable to ours. Some other universities, including a few in our region, conduct surveillance testing using different and potentially less sensitive tests. Again, the use of different testing methods and procedures will produce results that cannot be compared to ours at QU. More surveillance testing will be conducted at QU in the future.

Here's the simplest possible summary for the current academic semester:

COVID-19 Test Summary for QU Students

Number of Student Positive Tests, Active Cases	26
Number of Previous Positive Tests, Not Active Cases	63
Total Number of Cases Following QU Entry for Fall 2020	89

We are not aware of any positive COVID-19 test in the current semester for any QU employee or vendor. We will continue to be transparent about the number of COVID-19 cases involving students, employees, and vendors, as we are made aware of those tests.

Here's our review of the current COVID-19 situation at Quincy University:

1. We continue to follow our plan for COVID-19 testing and to have confidence in that plan. At QU, the combination of symptomatic and asymptomatic testing is designed to help us limit new infections. Ultimately, though, the best way to reduce our risk for COVID-19 infection is the consistent use of masking, distancing, and good hand hygiene.
2. In last Thursday's update, we announced limitations on indoor dining and gatherings, including requests that all members of our community avoid use of indoor restaurant seating and minimize shopping trips through October 9. At present, those on campus should eat outdoors or eat in residence hall rooms,

either alone or only in the company of roommates. We need to reduce our number of new infections, Hawks. Thank you for your understanding and support for these practical and necessary measures.

3. We are using contact tracing and quarantining to find people who may have a COVID-19 infection, to keep them safe, to make certain they have testing and medical care, and to prevent them from infecting other people. Our quarantining procedures are more aggressive than the procedures used by many other organizations, with the aim of quickly reducing the opportunities for the disease to spread. Our quarantining decisions are made, when appropriate, in consultation with the Adams County Health Department.

4. Some of our students have come into contact with people who have tested positive when those students were away from campus. Consequently, some of our students are in quarantine because of COVID-19 exposure when not on the QU campus. This is one of the reasons we are now discouraging people from indoor dining at restaurants and bars and from unnecessary shopping and travel.

5. It is essential that students, faculty, and staff report symptoms of anything that might be COVID-19 as soon as possible. While some of us might be tempted to avoid reporting a symptom on the grounds that the symptom seems minor, a healthcare professional, not an individual student or employee, should make this determination. There is *no* acceptable reason for failing to inform us about a medical symptom that might point to COVID-19.

6. We understand that many members of our community are experiencing unprecedented levels of depression and anxiety. Resources are available to help you. Please say something. Get the help you need.

7. If you are already a student on campus and in Quincy, Quincy is the best and safest place for you to be for the remainder of the semester. Consistent with the very strong advice of the CDC, QU students should not leave the Quincy area in mid-semester, as doing so causes new COVID-19 risks for students and for families.

8. As a reminder, asymptomatic people who are infected with the virus pose very little risk to members of our community if all of us are wearing masks, practicing physical distancing, and committed to good hand hygiene.

As background for our safety measures at QU, we continue to report local and statewide COVID-19 information to all members of our community. As of today, a total of 1,146 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 170 of which are considered active cases. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 31,345 confirmed negative COVID-19 tests. There are seven current hospitalizations in Adams County linked to COVID-19. One Missouri resident has died in Adams County of causes related to COVID-19, as have ten Adams County residents.

There have been 289,639 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 have been 123,276 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Finally, in the highly unlikely event you forgot: Masking, distancing, and good hand hygiene are essential to keeping people safe from infection and out of quarantine. All members of our campus community are expected to follow our safety procedures both on campus and off campus.

Today is National Good Neighbor Day, which has been celebrated in the United States since the 1970s. With its focus on love, caring, and kindness, National Good Neighbor Day seems like something we need right now. National Good Neighbor Day also is a perfect match for Franciscan Heritage Week at Quincy University.

Today also is National Drink Beer Day, which, sadly, has gotten more media attention than National Good Neighbor Day. We will leave an exploration of the merits of this day to the imaginations of those among you of legal drinking age.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development

P.S. President McGee concluded his work on this update while listening to Sir Edward Elgar's *Serenade for Springs in E Minor*, Op. 20, "Larghetto," and several of Whitney Houston's greatest hits. Consider this the perfect classic and classical music for the onset of fall.