

Dear Quincy University community:

It's the ninth week of the 2020 Fall Semester.

This message is the seventieth update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here's the simplest possible summary for the current academic semester:

COVID-19 Test Summary for QU Students (Fall 2020)

Number of Student Positive Tests, Active Cases	14*
Number of Previous Positive Tests, Not Active Cases	96
Total Number of Cases Following QU Entry for Fall 2020	110

*One additional student who only takes online courses and does not live locally has tested positive for COVID-19. This student will be excluded from our reporting of on-campus and local cases, but we are concerned for the safety and recovery of all QU students.

COVID-19 Data

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

- **110** positive COVID-19 viral tests have been reported this semester for QU students after those students arrived at the university. One additional student who only takes online courses and does not live locally also has reported a positive COVID-19 test.
- **Fourteen** of those 110 students currently have active COVID-19 infections and are in quarantine.
- **Ninety-six** of those 110 students have completed their quarantine periods and are not active cases.
- **Forty-nine** students are currently in quarantine, including all active positive cases and many other students who have not tested positive for COVID-19. 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.
- **Over 100 rooms** on campus currently are available for quarantine use.
- We are aware of **two** positive COVID-19 tests in the current semester for non-instructional staff members, both of whom currently are quarantined. We are not aware of any positive tests in the current semester for faculty or for

QU vendors. We will continue to be transparent about the number of COVID-19 cases involving students, employees, and vendors, as we are notified about them.

Surveillance Testing

We currently are scheduled to conduct a fourth round of surveillance testing on Monday, October 19, for about 140 individuals. 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.

Our Current Situation

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 previous COVID-19 updates, we announced limitations on indoor dining and gatherings on campus, along with requests that all members of our community avoid use of indoor restaurant seating and minimize shopping trips. Those limitations and related requests will remain in place through at least Friday, October 16.** At present, those on campus should eat outdoors or eat in residence hall rooms, either alone or only in the company of roommates. A decision about whether or not to extend these restrictions will be made and announced by Thursday of this week and will take into account conditions both on campus and in Adams County.
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 decisions are made, when appropriate, in consultation with the Adams County Health Department.

4. 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.

5. We are entering the **cold and flu season**. For the rest of the semester, we anticipate an increase in the number of students with symptoms requiring a COVID-19 test, even though many of those students will have an illness other than COVID-19. Throughout the semester, we have been waiting on the typical day for results from one or more COVID-19 tests; we are waiting for the results of nine tests at present.

6. **If you intend for any reason to have a COVID-19 test** or you have taken a COVID-19 test, please contact Dr. Tracy immediately with the details of your situation.

7. The **Health and Well Being Clinic** is open to all students and offers Nurse Practitioner Services and Counseling Services. If you need counseling services, please call 217-222-6550 ext. 3418 and set up a telehealth appointment, a face-to-face appointment on our campus, or an appointment at QMG at no cost. If you need to consult with the Nurse Practitioner, please see her on the Friars' Hall main floor during the times listed below. She will be offering **flu shots** for all students who want one, and flu shots are strongly encouraged for all of us during the pandemic.

Monday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Tuesday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Thursday 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

8. 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.

9. 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.

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.

Local and State Reports on COVID-19 Cases

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 1,405 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the **Quincy region (i.e., Adams County)**, 131 of which are considered active cases. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 34,579 confirmed negative COVID-19 tests. There are 31 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 11 Adams County residents.

There have been 321,892 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 144,230 confirmed COVID-19 cases in **Missouri**.

President McGee is very aware that the first episode for the new season of *Star Trek: Discovery* will be available this Thursday. Has he watched the trailer for the premiere episode? Of course. He is that kind of fan.

Stay safe, Hawks. Please wear your mask over your mouth and nostrils. We need to stay vigilant and be careful.

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

P.S. We will leave it to our readers to determine whether Dr. Tracy or President McGee spent time this weekend on the finer points of the “Toosie Slide” – with the clean lyrics, of course.