

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the sixty-ninth 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	95
Total Number of Cases Following QU Entry for Fall 2020	109

*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:

- **109** 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 109 students currently have active COVID-19 infections and are in quarantine.
- **Ninety-five** of those 109 students have completed their quarantine periods and are not active cases.
- **Thirty-eight** 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 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 any positive tests.

Background Information on Surveillance Testing

We conducted surveillance testing on Monday, October 5, for about 140 individuals. Results from this surveillance testing are included in tonight's COVID-19 update. This third round of Quincy University's routine surveillance testing responded 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. More surveillance testing will be conducted at QU in the future.

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. Thirteen of the 14 active infections for COVID-19 at QU were identified through this week's surveillance testing. Our COVID-19 testing method does not allow us to determine with precision when a person was infected, but all students who have a positive surveillance test are treated as if they have active infections.
3. **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 through Friday, October 9. We are now extending those limitations and related requests 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.

4. 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.

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. Also, 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.

6. 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

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.

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 12.

County 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 1,314 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 138 of which are considered active cases. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 34,059 confirmed negative COVID-19 tests. There are 19 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 310,700 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 137,156 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Today, the Nobel Prize in Literature was *not* awarded to any of the previous 68 COVID-19 updates from QU. Instead, the prize went to a brilliant and deserving American lyric poet, Louise Glück. Perhaps our updates will be more favorably received in 2021, especially if we add frequent *Lord of the Rings* and *Battlestar Galactica* references to our respectful treatment of *Star Trek* and our less-than-respectful treatment of *Star Wars*.

Securi dormite, Hawks. So say we all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development