

Dear Quincy University community:

Today's message is the ninety-eighth update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here's our review of the COVID-19 situation for the Quincy University community:

1. Our last round of surveillance testing, involving 70 unvaccinated students, took place on Wednesday, September 8. **All test results were negative.**
2. **Five students have tested positive for COVID-19 since the semester began.** One of those students takes only online courses. Any student with an active infection is quarantined, whether on or off campus. **As of today, there are no active student cases on campus.**
3. Three additional students currently are **quarantined for close contact.** As a reminder, students who are quarantined for close contact have not tested positive for COVID-19 and may never have a positive test.
4. In the typical day QU is testing three or more students, faculty, and staff for COVID-19 because those community members report one or more COVID-19 symptoms, such as a headache or congestion. Most test results for such symptomatic testing are negative, but not all.
5. We are continuing to get new information about student, faculty, business partner, and staff vaccinations. At present, **77.5% of QU students** are partially or fully vaccinated. The great majority of those students are fully vaccinated. **91.5%** of full-time faculty and staff (and those part-time staff categories for whom we have usable data) are partially or fully vaccinated. The great majority of the vaccinated faculty and staff are fully vaccinated. **Our all-community vaccination rate is presently 80%.**
6. We know that some QU students may be required to participate in **COVID-19 surveillance testing provided through their local employers in Quincy or nearby communities.** We ask all students to report their test results to Dr. Tracy.
7. For the current semester, we are aware of **no COVID-19 cases for QU faculty. So far this semester, two full-time staff members and one part-time staff member have tested positive for COVID-19. As of today, there are no active cases on campus for faculty or staff.** Anyone with an active infection is quarantined, and no one in off-campus quarantine is permitted to return to campus until that person's quarantine period is complete.
8. Faculty, staff, and business partner employees should continue to **seek out COVID-19 testing** when they have one or more COVID-19 symptoms. Those faculty, staff, and business partner employees seeking to arrange a rapid COVID-19 test on campus should contact Dr. Tracy directly.
9. By far, the best way to reduce our risk for COVID-19 infection and serious illness is vaccination. **Masking, distancing, and good hand hygiene** also can be important ways to reduce risk. All members of the QU community should continue to follow public health safety guidelines.
10. For any student currently living on the QU campus and for all employees, 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.**
11. **If you intend for any reason to have a COVID-19 test** or you have taken a COVID-19 test not arranged by the university, no matter where you are living right now, **please contact Dr. Tracy** with the details of your situation.
12. New guidance regarding COVID-19 testing, safety, and quarantine protocols continues to be announced by federal, state, and county sources. Updates to our policies and procedures will be announced by email as those updates are available.

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/>.

September 10, 2021

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. Because the pandemic was declared well over a year ago, it is no longer useful to report total case numbers. We will continue to provide active case counts and current hospitalizations. In the **Quincy region (i.e., Adams County)**, 85 new cases were reported yesterday. There are 42 current hospitalizations in Adams County linked to COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, one Missouri resident has died in Adams County of causes related to COVID-19, as have 143 Adams County residents.

Information about COVID-19 cases in Illinois, including county-by-county reports, is available at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>. QU updates on COVID-19 cases are taken from the public reports of state and county agencies.

Missouri reports its COVID-19 cases for the past seven days and does not provide daily updates to its COVID-19 summary. Information about COVID-19 in Missouri is available at <https://showmestrong.mo.gov/data/public-health/>.

Announcements

To summarize what you read above, we have now administered hundreds of surveillance tests for COVID-19 since the beginning of the fall semester, with zero positive test results so far. This trend will not continue forever – COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease – but we are proud of all the work you have done to reduce our number of infections on campus. The eight total positive cases we have had so far this year for students and staff are a reminder of the importance of prompt testing for anyone who has one or more symptoms.

As you know, Governor Pritzker of Illinois has ordered that employees and students in public and private higher education should be vaccinated or receive a medical or religious exemption from vaccination. To allow QU to comply with this executive order, we asked those of you who were not partially or fully vaccinated by September 7, 2021, to complete and submit a **Vaccination Declination or Deferral Request** form. We thank the over 170 of you who did so. If you should have submitted your form on September 7 and did not, please do so as soon as possible. Anyone for whom we do not have proof of vaccination or the completed form will be contacted and asked to supply this required documentation.

Tomorrow is the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. We ask for your prayers for the victims, their families, and all those touched in some way by the aftermath of those attacks. Some information about this anniversary is available at <https://www.911memorial.org/connect/commemoration/20th-anniversary-commemoration>.

We are surprised that not a single person saw fit to respond to last week's commentary on prime numbers. We didn't get any love whatsoever for the Sieve of Eratosthenes reference. Couldn't a single math major give us a shout-out? You can be a tough crowd, Hawks.

Enjoy a great Friday and a beautiful weekend, QU.

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

September 10, 2021