

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the fifteenth 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, we encourage you to search them out in your email folders or read them at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>.

The QU coronavirus website also includes a link to our Q&A document, which was updated yesterday, March 23.

As of today, Tuesday, March 24, the Adams County (Illinois) Health Department has previously confirmed one COVID-19 case, the first and, thus far, the only case in our region. To the best of our knowledge, the infected person was not connected to QU in any way. This is the same case we have mentioned in several previous email updates.

As many news sources indicate, we are still seeing a steady increase in the number of such cases reported in Illinois, in Missouri, across the nation, and around the world. There are now 1,535 COVID-19 cases in Illinois, with the great majority of those cases in the greater Chicago area. We remind everyone that no part of our nation is likely to avoid COVID-19 cases. The growth in the number of cases for Illinois in the past day can be attributed in part to the increased availability of COVID-19 testing. 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>. Much misinformation about COVID-19 is now circulating on the internet, including social media, and members of our community are encouraged to pay attention only to advice provided by reputable health professionals.

Illinois, including Quincy, continues to operate under a "stay at home" order until the end of the day on April 7. Quincy University's residence halls and cafeteria remain open and will remain open for the semester.

Because of the new order from the State of Illinois, the earliest day we can return to face-to-face instruction at QU is Wednesday, April 8. The QU community should expect an announcement tomorrow morning, Wednesday, March 25, about our schedule for teaching online.

Students are encouraged to stay in touch with their professors and to ask questions. It's important to maintain a regular dialogue, which allows students to learn better and professors to make adjustments to their courses.

Registration for summer and fall classes opens on Monday, March 30, so students and academic advisors are holding virtual meetings this week. If a student hasn't yet scheduled an advising phone call or video call with her or his advisor, the student should do so as soon as possible. Academic advisors received an email today from Dr. Enger, which contains some important information.

Students who have existing appointments with our counselors on campus will still be able to attend those appointments via telehealth. Any student who wishes to speak to a counselor will be able to do so. Should you have questions about your appointment or making an appointment, please contact Dr. Tracy at [tracychq@quincy.edu](mailto:tracychq@quincy.edu).

In case you haven't noticed, you really can't be a QU student these days without emailing Dr. Tracy for some reason or other.

Faculty and staff received updates today via email about data security and phishing attempts, among other topics. I urge careful attention to this message from Mr. Hill in our IT Department. This information is particularly important when so many of us are working from home.

We have had questions about access to the Health and Fitness Center (HFC) on the QU campus, which remains open (12-4 p.m., seven days a week) and is available to anyone with a valid QU identification card. All Health and Fitness Center classes are cancelled, and all individual HFC users are asked to follow guidelines for maintaining physical distance and good hygiene. The HFC remains closed to the general public.

Speaking of hygiene, Global Handwashing Day, observed on October 15, is actually a thing. We don't have to wait for October to appreciate its importance. Remember: Each of us needs to wash hands, use hand sanitizer, and maintain a physical distance of six feet when we must be out in public.

If you are looking for more campus news, you are encouraged to follow @Quincy\_U and @Quincy\_UMcGee on Twitter. President McGee is saddened that so few followers loved his tweet about trombone practice in Francis Hall, but he'll get over it. Resources are always available at [www.quincy.edu](http://www.quincy.edu) and at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>.

Tomorrow, March 25, is International Waffle Day. That sounds much more fun, if much less healthy, than Global Handwashing Day.

We miss you, Hawks! Stay safe. Be smart.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development