

Dear Quincy University community:

We have no new university-specific announcements today, but, for the foreseeable future, we will be continuing to offer a daily update. We hope these updates continue to be helpful.

This message is the twentieth 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 most recently updated yesterday, March 27.

Earlier today, Saturday, March 28, the Adams County (Illinois) Health Department confirmed one new COVID-19 case, which is the second case in our region. This second infected person is a health care professional and, to the best of our knowledge, is not connected to QU.

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 3,491 COVID-19 cases in Illinois, with the great majority of those cases in the 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>.

There currently are 838 COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

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 spring semester, while QU students will take courses exclusively online for the remainder of the semester. QU's spring commencement ceremony has been postponed to a later date.

Registration for summer and fall classes opens in two days, on Monday, March 30.

We know everyone reading this sentence has it memorized and would definitely get a perfect score on the pop quiz, but here it is again: 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. There is a great deal of reliable information now available online about these basic hygiene practices. For example, if you want to know more about the history of hand sanitizer – surely you want to know more about hand sanitizer, right? – then try this article: <https://www.vanityfair.com/style/2020/03/purell-hand-sanitizer-history>.

If you are looking for more campus news, you are encouraged to follow @Quincy_U and @Quincy_UMcGee on Twitter. Resources are always available at www.quincy.edu and at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>. Look for President McGee's exciting Sunday tweets about the QU campus squirrels. (Yes, squirrels have, once again, overrun the campus.)

Earlier today, you received an email from Fr. John Doctor, OFM, QU's Vice President for Mission and Ministry. In that message, Fr. John encouraged us to be attentive and mindful, as we find beauty and grace even under our difficult circumstances. Whatever your faith tradition might be, Fr. John's messages encourage you to care for yourself and to encounter those around you in a spirit of love, humbleness, and service. Thank you for these most Franciscan of messages, Fr. John.

Tomorrow, March 29, is the fifth Sunday of Lent. Many of us are familiar with the Catholic and Christian practice of giving up something for Lent, such as limiting television or eliminating chocolate from your diet. Little did we know that we would be giving up so very much for Lent in 2020. We are experiencing some serious Lenten sacrifice, Hawks.

At least we can still eat waffles, which President McGee has *not* given up for Lent.

May God bless you all, and may God bless Quincy University.

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