

Dear QU community:

It's been a pleasure engaging with parents, students, alumni, faculty, and staff over the past several days, even as many people have worked very hard to adjust to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. The QU community is kind, generous, and always willing to lend a hand in tough times, consistent with our Franciscan values. Those positive attributes have been on full display over the past several days.

Over the next few weeks, we will shift to daily updates regarding our COVID-19 response at Quincy University. Some updates will be longer than others, depending on the news of the day. Thank you in advance for your patience with these emails, which sometimes contain a good deal of information.

Please remember that all classes are cancelled for the week of March 16-20, as we have extended spring break through the current week. All university offices will be open on Monday, March 16. Classes will begin on March 23 and will be taught exclusively online.

As a reminder, a Q&A document will be published by the end of the day tomorrow, March 16, for the most common questions we have received about COVID-19 and QU. In the future, we may update the Q&A document on occasion as we receive new questions.

Dr. Tracy will continue to be in contact with students and, in some cases, faculty and staff regarding travel and return to campus. It is imperative that all members of our community cooperate in all safety screenings relevant to COVID-19. Please watch for Dr. Tracy's emails and messages from campus leaders relevant to your role with the university.

Many of you have read that the State of Illinois has closed restaurants and bars to dine-in service, effective tomorrow, though many restaurants are likely to offer take-out and curbside service. The cafeteria at QU will remain open to serve our students, and no one should be worried about food availability on campus. We are deeply grateful for the work of the Chartwells team, which provides such exceptional food service at QU.

In another development late today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has discouraged gatherings of more than 50 people. We will provide additional guidance over the coming days about events scheduled on the QU campus for the coming months, including restrictions on event attendance. One source of information will be the revised QU calendar, which will be adjusted to account for the COVID-19 influence on our events schedule by Tuesday, March 17.

As students return to campus, including students who live full-time in the Quincy region, be aware that group activities (e.g., aerobics classes) are currently canceled for the Health and Fitness Center (HFC). However, all members of our campus community may use the HFC for individual workouts. All HFC users are asked to carefully follow instructions for sanitizing exercise equipment.

Faculty development sessions on online teaching have been scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Interested faculty should respond to the emailed schedule and RSVP to Mary Betts. Our congratulations go out to Dr. Reed, the academic unit leaders, and all those who have worked to prepare so quickly to offer these sessions for our outstanding faculty.

The QU Facilities staff has now placed sanitizing hand stations and wipes at the major entrances to campus buildings, and even more sanitizing stations will be added in the coming days. Where it is possible to do so, some of you will see door stops used in key areas to reduce physical contact with heavily used doors. Our thanks to the National Management team, which is working so hard to make our campus safe.

While the QU admissions staff will not be able to visit high schools in Illinois and many other parts of the country in the coming weeks, prospective students will still be able to visit the QU campus and learn more about our programs. Again, all offices at Quincy University will be open on Monday.

Several previous messages have emphasized the importance of social distancing and basic hygiene in slowing the transmission of COVID-19. Such practices will continue to be critical to our safety as all offices open on March 16 and as many students return to campus, even as all students prepare for online instruction.

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/>.

We will not have the return from spring break we all expected. No one wanted to see spring break extended in this way. We should be proud of the work we have done to care for and protect all members of the Quincy University community. We know our students, whenever they return to campus, will do their part to keep our community safe.

The character and resilience shown by all members of our community continue to confirm what we already knew: Even our most challenging days are great days to be Hawks.

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