

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the ninth update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we don't have a great deal for you tonight. Our gem of a small city, Quincy, Illinois, is peaceful and quiet. We continue to prepare on campus for online teaching and the resumption of classes on Monday, March 23.

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 posted on March 16.

As of today, March 18, there are no media reports of COVID-19 cases in Quincy, Illinois, or in the region. However, 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 288 COVID-19 cases in Illinois, with infections reported for individuals with an age range from 9-91. 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.

Some aviation students have asked about the status of their coursework when we return from spring break. Aviation classes at the airport will be limited to ground work and labs on the flight simulator in order to satisfy social distancing requirements and during the period of online instruction.

For students interested in living on campus next year, the housing lottery starts tomorrow, Thursday, March 19. If you have questions, please email Andrea Gruger at grugean@quincy.edu to get your space for the 2020-2021 school year figured out.

As we reported yesterday, some students are planning to come back to campus in the next few days, before classes begin. Most students will remain at home or return home, wherever home might be, and they will continue their classes online from home.

Students (and QU employees) who have traveled more than 50 miles away from Quincy, Illinois, during the extended spring break must complete a simple health screening at the time they return to campus. More information on this topic has been provided to students in an email from Dr. Tracy. Faculty and staff who have been away from campus and who need to complete a health screening should contact their supervisors.

This is the paragraph in our daily message where we remind everyone to wash hands regularly, use hand sanitizer, and practice social distancing. Anyone now on the Quincy University campus should expect anyone they meet to remain at least six feet away during conversations. We hope that all Hawks everywhere are following these same basic instructions for avoiding infection.

While all campus offices will continue to be open, some Quincy University faculty and staff will be working from home, even after classes resume on Monday. So, while you might live in

Quincy or on campus, you still could find that your advisor, for example, meets with you via email or the phone. While we at QU love to meet students face to face, we are all making sacrifices to ensure we reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

If you are looking for more campus news, you are encouraged to follow @Quincy_U and @Quincy_UMcGee on Twitter. President McGee's Twitter account will continue to repost area COVID-19 news and scenes from Quincy and the QU campus. Resources are always available at www.quincy.edu and at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>.

We are asking students to tell us their strangest or most amusing stories about experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have a story you can't wait to share, please email President McGee directly at president@quincy.edu. Some stories may be shared via *QUniverse* or social media.

As our longest-ever spring break comes to an end, we encourage all members of the QU community to reach out to friends and family members who might be feeling lonely or isolated as the realities of the pandemic set in. This is a good time to live out our values as a community and to serve others. QU, we know, is a place where goodness always, always wins out.

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