

Dear QU community:

This is your daily update on the response of Quincy University to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also the seventh update you have received on our pandemic response since March 2, 2020. Going forward, we will provide daily updates for all members of our community, for as long as the present situation requires them.

New federal, state, and local directives relevant to our mission at Quincy University have been announced each day for the past several days. We expect more such announcements to continue for several days to come. Please be patient with us as we work to adapt to changing circumstances. In all cases, we will give you new or updated information as quickly as we can, always consistent with our top priority of protecting your health and safety.

A new document answering frequently asked student and family questions now is linked to Quincy University's COVID-19 website. The link for the website is <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>. The Q&A document link on the website is rendered in green, as tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day. (Yes, we know there will be a serious shortage of celebrations of St. Patrick's Day in 2020. A green link is the best we can do.)

Again, please remember that classes are cancelled for this week, March 16-20, as we have extended spring break through the current week. All university offices are open and will remain open. Classes will resume on March 23, will be taught exclusively online, and will continue online until at least April 3.

As of today, March 16, there are no media reports of COVID-19 cases in Quincy, Illinois, or in the region. However, there has been a steady increase in the number of such cases reported in Illinois, in Missouri, across the nation, and around the world. No part of our nation will be spared from COVID-19 infections, and we are prepared for the announcement of such cases in our region.

Today, March 16, Quincy University faculty attended the first of a series of workshops dedicated to online learning, which will continue tomorrow and Wednesday. These workshops will help faculty make the mid-semester transition from face-to-face courses to online instruction. We are grateful for the outstanding work of our faculty, on very short notice, to meet the needs of QU students. A lengthy meeting of our athletic staff was held today, so that all coaches and staff could be briefed on the many announcements made in the past several days by the NCAA, the GLVC, and other athletic organizations.

While all offices at QU are open for business, we are adjusting some programming and meetings for faculty, staff, and students to simplify social distancing and to align our everyday work on campus with today's CDC recommendations, which discourage gatherings (for the next 15 days) of more than 10 people. Some spaces on campus may have access temporarily restricted so that campus cleaning crews may concentrate their efforts on spaces currently in use.

Our Facilities team and the university leadership continue to evaluate our campus buildings and new ways to clean them more efficiently. Additional hand sanitizer stations and wipes have been made available in some areas.

All our residence halls are open, as is the cafeteria. Chartwells, our food service provider, is using bottled beverages and disposable dishes and utensils to reduce the risk of infection. Students in the cafeteria have handwashing stations and access to hand sanitizer. Students in the cafeteria also have ample space to follow all recommendations for social distancing, and those recommendations are posted throughout the cafeteria. Food is being served to students directly by Chartwells employees, rather than buffet-style.

While the State of Illinois has ordered restaurants and bars to close after this evening for the next few weeks, this order does not affect the operations of the QU cafeteria.

Students who are in the region and wish to continue to work on campus are encouraged to contact their supervisors about their work schedules during the extended break and our period of online instruction. Many offices will need student workers during this period. More information about work study programs will be made available when we have that information.

Several previous messages have emphasized the importance of social distancing and basic hygiene in slowing the transmission of COVID-19. Again, such practices will continue to be critical to our safety for continuing campus operations. As suggested above, sanitizing stations are available in many campus buildings. A handout from the Illinois Department of Public Health, which describes the basics of social distancing, is attached to this message.

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 thank many of you for your kind messages of support for QU and our COVID-19 response. We will continue to keep you informed in the coming days. Go Hawks!

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