

Dear Quincy University community:

We are writing late in the day, and custom usually requires that April Fools' pranks take place before noon. So, this will be an update free from the influence of April Fools' Day. If you experienced any pranks during this most serious of times, we hope you were entertained.

This message is the twenty-fourth 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 Friday, March 27.

Reminder: Registration for QU summer and fall classes opened this week. You can always contact academic advisors and success coaches for help with registration. Students should be aware that only an academic advisor can open the registration portal.

Two COVID-19 cases have been confirmed so far in the Quincy region. To the best of our knowledge, neither is 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 6,980 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. 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 1,581 COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

As announced yesterday, Illinois, including Quincy, is now operating under a "stay at home" order until the end of the day on Thursday, April 30. This is a change from the original order, which would have ended our stay-at-home requirement on April 7. Because of the extended stay-at-home order, we will advise you in the next few days about a handful of schedule revisions at Quincy University.

Students and parents have received an email from QU Community Relations about a virtual town hall meeting, scheduled for 4:00 p.m. tomorrow, April 2. The details of submitting questions and watching that town hall are included in the Community Relations email. An earlier town hall meeting was held for faculty and staff. The town hall for students and parents will explain how QU is responding to the pandemic and working to support our community.

Quincy University's residence halls and cafeteria remain open and will remain open for the semester, while QU students will take courses exclusively online for the remainder of the spring semester. As announced previously, QU's spring commencement ceremony has been postponed to a later date.

Without any reliance on The Wiggles, here's our usual reminder: 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. Though we tried, the last sentence can't be set to the refrain of such globally renowned hits of The Wiggles as "Fruit Salad" or "Hot Potato." If none of this makes sense to you, please review yesterday's update.

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/>.

Over these past twenty-four updates, we have occasionally used campus squirrels, Klingons, waffles, and other asides to make the updates a bit more interesting to read. Thanks to those of you who tell us you appreciate the weird sense of humor. Please do not doubt, though, that we want every member of this community to stay safe and healthy. We also want our students to be supported in their coursework and all members of the community to have the help they need. We are proud of our QU community and how all of you have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. For all those with friends and loved ones who have contracted COVID-19, and for all those who are suffering financially because of the pandemic, know that we care for you. You will continue to have our prayers and any support we can offer.

The grass is growing, the trees and flowers are blooming, and the Quincy days are now perfect for a nice walk. Wherever you are, this campus is yours. It will be ready for your return, long after this pandemic is concluded.

We will get through this challenging time. All of us, together.

Here's one more Star Trek reference: Peace and long life, Hawks.

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