

Our thanks to Fr. John for his beautiful meditation on prayer and invocation of Psalm 46 in an email earlier today, April 3.

This message is the twenty-sixth 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 on 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.

In addition to two COVID-19 cases that previously had been reported in the Quincy region, a third case was confirmed earlier today. To the best of our knowledge, the three cases are 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 8,904 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 2,113 COVID-19 cases in Missouri. Earlier today, the state of Missouri announced a stay-at-home order, effective Monday, April 6. Illinois continues to operate under a stay-at-home order that took effect on March 21.

To review, 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. QU's spring commencement ceremony has been postponed to a later date.

Although Brenner Library is physically closed, library resources are still available virtually to the QU Community. If you need assistance with any of the library's resources or knowing where to find e-resources for your assignments, please either email the library at library@quincy.edu or schedule an online reference appointment at: <https://forms.gle/uXq9XsjcHLYpnJ5z5>.

Today, current Quincy University students received a handout by email that provides important advice on how to be successful in online courses. My thanks to Dr. Reed for having this handout prepared and sent to you by Mary Betts. The handout is short, it is not scary, and there will be no quiz on its contents. You should definitely read it. Faculty also received information from Dr. Reed on online teaching.

Today, current Quincy University students received a lengthy and important email from Dr. Tracy that addresses housing, tutoring, mental health and other questions. The email is lengthy, but, once again, we promise there will not be a quiz. You should definitely read it.

Yesterday, students were asked to complete a very short survey by Dr. Tracy. Thank you to those who completed the survey. If you have not, please consider doing so. This survey will help us ensure we are giving you the support you need this semester.

The message hasn't changed, Hawks: Each of us needs to wash hands (for 20 seconds!), use hand sanitizer, and maintain a physical distance of six feet when we must be out in public. If you are worried about keeping track of your hand sanitizer, we are pleased to report that a "Star Trek Hand Sanitizer Key Fob" is available on Etsy, so you can neatly clip your travel-sized hand sanitizer to your key fob. The travel-sized hand sanitizer is not included with the key fob, but who could say no to this opportunity to feature both Star Trek and cleanliness?

Earlier today, and in addition to physical distancing, the CDC began recommending the use in public places of simple cloth face masks to reduce COVID-19 infections. The CDC recommendation is described at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>.

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/>. President McGee now has his 350th Twitter follower, happily.

Tomorrow is Saturday, which for President McGee will mean a jumbo waffle made using his 1962 Westinghouse Waffle Maker and with a sprinkling of cinnamon, semi-sweet chocolate, confectioner's sugar, strawberries, and chocolate syrup. Dr. Tracy will also find something to eat for breakfast.

Sleep long and well, Hawks.

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