

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the twenty-ninth 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 March 27 and will next be updated on Friday, April 10. The updated Q&A document will contain new information on multiple topics, including the question of room-and-board refunds.

Registration for QU summer and fall classes opened last week. If you aren't registered already, now's the time. As a reminder, all QU summer classes are being taught online.

We've had 11 COVID-19 cases reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County). To the best of our knowledge, none of these cases 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 13,549 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 3,037 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Both Illinois and Missouri are now operating under stay-at-home orders. The Illinois order is now scheduled to last until the end of the day on Thursday, April 30.

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 and for the summer terms. QU's spring commencement ceremony has been postponed to a later date.

Graduating seniors, if you borrowed through the federal direct loan program at any point in your academic career, you are required by the federal government to complete exit counseling through the Student Financial Services Office. Due to the current circumstances, counseling sessions will be held online through Moodle. Be looking for an email from Alex Skarr with your login information. Exit counseling needs to be completed before the end of the semester. For more information contact Alex Skarr at skarral@quincy.edu.

All residential students, please sign up for an appointment to move your things off campus. The move-out date has been extended until May 22, but we would like to get students scheduled. All students who have not made an appointment received an email from Dr. Tracy today.

We aren't going to change this announcement until Dr. Tracy is old enough to qualify for Medicare benefits: 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. In addition to physical distancing, the CDC now recommends the use in public places of simple cloth face coverings to reduce COVID-19 infections. As I'm sure you've guessed, Dr. Tracy would really enjoy receiving questions about how old she is.

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's Twitter account includes several great images of the QU campus, or so he thinks. Those of you with actual photographic skills should leave him alone in his misguided belief.

COVID-19 continues to cause suffering and death around the world. Today, an Army veteran and award-winning singer-songwriter, Illinois's John Prine, died of complications from a COVID-19 infection. One of his well-known songs, "Hello in There," deals with themes of old age, isolation, and loneliness – themes that are all too relevant in this time of physical distancing. Prine's 2018 performance of the song is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVhA01J0Zsg>. Please pray for all the victims of COVID-19 and their families, whether young or old, famous or not. Whatever one might think of his music or politics, may Prine be one of many angels flying from Montgomery in this sad and difficult time.

A so-called super moon is now playing a prominent role in the night sky, with the moon about as close to the earth as it ever gets. It's nice to have something beautiful to ponder in the middle of a pandemic. Happily, we didn't need Jim Carrey in *Bruce Almighty* to arrange tonight's oversize moon.

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

P.S. If you didn't understand the *Bruce Almighty* reference, please make an adjustment in your pandemic-induced binge-watching of movies (if applicable). This is essential cultural knowledge, people.