

Dear Quincy University community:

Congratulations on the end of the semester! And, for some of you, congratulations on finishing your degrees! The faculty and staff of the university are proud of you, as am I.

As for the rest of this message, you know what's coming.

This message is the forty-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, you could search them out in your email folders or read them at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>. The next Quincy University update will be emailed to you no later than Monday, May 18.

The QU coronavirus website also includes a link to our Q&A document, which was last updated today, May 11. The Q&A document includes information about textbook returns. Students are reminded to return textbooks as soon as possible.

A total of 41 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 30 of whom are considered recovered. Some of these cases spread within households. There are no current hospitalizations in Adams County linked to COVID-19. One Missouri resident has died in Adams County of causes related to COVID-19, as has one Adams County resident.

There are now 79,007 COVID-19 cases in Illinois. 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>. These QU updates on COVID-19 cases are taken from the public reports of state and county agencies.

There currently are 9,918 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Illinois continues to have a stay-at-home order, which presently is scheduled to last until the end of the day on Saturday, May 30. Missouri no longer has a stay-at-home order, but many restrictions are in effect for everyday life in the state.

Yesterday, President McGee emailed students, faculty, and staff to confirm what most of you already assumed: QU has been planning for weeks for our community to return to campus for face-to-face instruction this fall. Please review that email if you haven't done so already. We will continue to update you regularly about those plans, but we expect to know more in June and July than in May. Please be patient with us, as we continue to acquire more information from public health professionals and from the federal and state governments. International students may need to be especially patient, as many of your home countries and the U.S. government are not yet providing much information about international student travel back to the U.S.

As announced last week, some QU students are eligible for a direct payment of relief funds, which have been provided to QU for this purpose by the federal government. QU students may continue to apply for this direct financial assistance from the first round of QU CARES Act relief funding. All applications for first-round CARES Act funding at QU must be received by 5:00

p.m. (Central Time) this Friday, May 15. *Beginning tomorrow at noon, students wishing to be considered for emergency assistance should read the application information on the University's coronavirus website and click on the link to submit an application.* The application process is easy to complete. Consistent with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, priority will be given to providing assistance to students demonstrating high financial need as evidenced by the FAFSA. If you have questions not answered on the CARES Act page, please send an email to the committee at HawksHelp@quincy.edu.

We are confident that the first 43 reminders were sufficient, but here it is again: 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 recommends the use in public places of simple cloth face coverings to reduce COVID-19 infections. Those of us in Illinois are now required to use face coverings in public when physical distancing cannot be maintained. We find it a little weird that there is now something called <https://maskclub.com/>, but you can make your own decisions about purchasing superhero masks by subscription.

If you are looking for campus news over the summer, 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/>.

Last week, dedicated QU email readers will have read Fr. John Doctor's misguided defense of local squirrels, in which he dismisses President McGee's many warnings about the dangers posed by these dangerous creatures. We love and respect Fr. John, but we believe he has been lulled into a false sense of complacency by digitally altered pictures of the squirrel queen and her ravenous hordes. The Quincy squirrel army is coming for us all, Fr. John. Those cute pictures are designed to beguile and mislead us.

Have you ever seen a close-up photo of a squirrel's razor-sharp teeth and claws? We thought not.

Fortunately, for \$19.99 anyone can buy "Squirrel Mace" on Amazon and other websites. You can assume President McGee has stocked up and is prepared for the summer. Beware, squirrel queen.

Have a great week, Hawks.

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