

Dear Quincy University community:

As one might say, very politely, in the Shyriiwook dialect, *Wyaaaaaa. Ruh ruh.* If you can't understand that, perhaps your preferred dialect is Xaczik.

This message is the fifty-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, July 27.

A total of 274 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 80 of whom are considered recovered. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 13,902 confirmed negative COVID-19 tests. There are 15 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 163,703 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 34,762 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Illinois and Missouri do not have stay-at-home orders, but some restrictions are in effect for everyday life in both states. Out-of-state travelers to Chicago who plan to stay in the city for a time should read about the city's quarantine-on-arrival order affecting travelers from 15 U.S. states. No such order exists for other parts of Illinois.

Students who graduated at the conclusion of the 2020 Spring Semester have been contacted about our new date for the **QU Spring Commencement**. The rescheduled commencement will be held on **September 5, 2020** at the QU Stadium. Our thanks to the over 100 Spring graduates who already have signed up for one of the three commencement ceremonies scheduled on that day. Graduates should sign up for a ceremony by July 31. To provide more seating for the families and friends of graduates, faculty, coaches, and most staff and administrators are not expected to attend any of the commencement ceremonies. The ceremony will be streamed online for those who can't be physically present, as we don't think our graduates were born to walk alone.

All new and returning students are reminded to read all **QU emails** carefully and to check email several times a week. Every week, we know you read THIS message with care, but even those messages without references to science fiction and campus critters deserve your full attention. As you know, things keep changing with this pandemic, and we will revise QU's plan for the fall semester as new information becomes available. We may also make changes to our policies and procedures in response to suggestions from public health officials, faculty, staff, students, and parents, which means we would need to update the QU community on those changes.

Here we go, again, on our own: 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. Washing hands thoroughly with soap is a better option than the use of hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer should be rubbed on one's hands for 30 seconds or more, according to the CDC. In taking responsibility for our health, Lord, we pray you give us strength to carry on.

In addition to physical distancing, the CDC now recommends the use in public places of simple cloth face coverings to reduce COVID-19 infections. So, as St. Francis of Assisi might have said, "*indossare una maschera.*" Love's sweet charity requires this act of Franciscan hospitality.

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/>. Sadly, some of you may have missed the Twitter pic of President McGee's matching facemask and bow tie that received over 19,000 likes. President McGee will likely hold on for the rest of his days to this brief moment of flyness.

Rimanga sicuro, hawks. Remember that, as is the nature of hawks, your culinary and entertainment choices might include *serpente bianco*.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development