

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the fifty-fifth 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, August 3.

A total of 340 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 103 of whom are considered recovered. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 15,804 confirmed negative COVID-19 tests. There are 12 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. More information about recent COVID-19 cases in Adams County is available from <https://whig.com/20200725/adams-county-at-warning-level-for-coronavirus>.

There are now 172,655 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 43,050 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.

Earlier today, the Great Lakes Valley Conference became the eleventh athletic conference in NCAA Division II to delay most or all fall sports until the 2021 Spring Term. For the GLVC, this decision was intended to keep student-athletes safe, to simplify the start of this challenging fall semester, and to preserve the highest possible likelihood of a full sports seasons for all QU athletes. We have already begun to provide updated information to all QU students for the move-in schedule for residence halls, and more up-to-date information will be coming to our students and families in the coming days. We ask your patience with us as we adapt almost weekly to major changes affecting Quincy University. Do know that we always intend to provide you with full, current, and complete answers to your questions. If an answer changes because circumstances change, we will do our best to highlight updated information as it comes to you. We look forward to a great year and to having our community back on campus and following our new safety procedures.

Speaking of sending new information to students and families: All new and returning students are reminded to read all QU emails carefully and to check email several times a week. 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.

Because this isn't *Star Trek* in the twenty-third century, we don't have sonic showers to keep us clean: 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 addition to physical distancing, the CDC now recommends the use in public places of simple cloth face coverings to reduce COVID-19 infections. At this point, it's safe to say that the face-coverings advice is much stronger than a mere recommendation for the vast majority of us who are able to wear them. Not only is the scientific evidence for face coverings very compelling, but many of them also are far from simple. If you like stylish face coverings, that's fine by us. Just wear one, please.

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/>. President McGee warns that his first 1,037 Tweets are just the beginning of his continuing QU adventures on social media. Don't expect more *Tiger King* dance moves any time soon, however.

As part of last week's update, President McGee included no fewer than five allusions to the lyrics of a 1987 hit by the hair metal band Whitesnake, with a Whitesnake hint in Italian thrown in for good measure. Judging by the overwhelming lack of response to these admittedly unsubtle Easter eggs, President McGee has concluded that he might want to return to waffles and science fiction for your future entertainment. He'll work on that.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development

P.S. Fr. Kenneth Capalbo, OFM, passed away on Friday. His death had nothing to do with COVID-19. His life had everything to do with service to the Franciscans and to us all, including his 20 years as a beloved history professor at Quincy University. In this busy week, I ask your prayers for Fr. Capalbo's family and the Franciscan community, as they mourn a lost brother.