

Dear Quincy University community:

Welcome to the second week of the undergraduate fall term. By now, many of you are enjoying the good food served at the cafeteria by our friends at Chartwells. Like some of you, we can't decide between the curly fries and the waffle fries. So, we'll just have to eat both kinds. (The healthy stuff at Chartwells is also very good, folks.)

This message is the fifty-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, you could search them out in your email folders or read them at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>. The QU coronavirus website contains a video highlighting many safety procedures for the QU community. The website also includes a Q&A document.

The next Quincy University update will be emailed to you no later than Monday, August 31.

A total of 713 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 95 of which are considered active cases. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 23,540 confirmed negative COVID-19 tests. There are 11 current hospitalizations in Adams County linked to COVID-19. One Missouri resident has died in Adams County of causes related to COVID-19, as have seven Adams County residents.

There are now 221,790 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 75,944 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.

COVID-19 entry testing is nearly concluded for students taking face-to-face classes at QU this fall. No new positive tests have been reported since last Monday (August 17) for students entering the university.

Three positive tests have been reported this month for students after those students arrived at the university. All three have already completed their quarantine periods. No Quincy University student has had a positive COVID-19 test in the past week.

The 15 QU students who are quarantined at present have been placed there as a precaution because of symptoms or because they have been exposed to someone who is being tested. As will likely be the case on any given Monday (or other day of the week), we are awaiting test results for a few students. As noted previously, people may be quarantined who have not had a positive test and may never have a positive test.

We are not aware of any positive COVID-19 tests in the past week for QU employees. We will continue to be transparent about the number of COVID-19 cases involving students and employees, as we are made aware of those tests.

President McGee previously indicated he would take a COVID-19 viral test, the same test required for all students coming to QU this fall. He also promised he would share the results with the entire community. So, as promised, without any buildup or drama: President McGee took the test and had a negative result.

Things keep changing with this pandemic, and we will revise QU's COVID-19 plans 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: 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. As indicated above, face coverings are required in all QU buildings and anywhere outdoors when people cannot maintain a physical distance of at least six feet.

*Star Trek* fans online have been known to characterize those without facemasks as equivalent to the red shirts in the original series (i.e., Classic Trek). The point, of course, is no one should want to be a red shirt. Thanks to all those QU students, faculty, staff, and visitors who are avoiding the red-shirt designation and following our facemask rules.

Of course, instead of being mean-spirited about facemask use, *Star Trek* fans could just buy themselves some cool *Star Trek*-themed masks. (But, please, no scary Borg masks.) See <https://shop.startrek.com/collections/face-masks>.

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](http://www.quincy.edu) and at <https://www.quincy.edu/coronavirus/>.

Finally, President McGee's waffle extravaganza takes place this Saturday. Look for more information about this exciting event. No crowding, please. There will be plenty of waffles for all, and physical distancing won't prevent you from claiming your very own syrupy helping of pure joy.

President McGee will be at this exciting event with his two – yes, he owns two of them -- 1962 Westinghouse waffle makers. Could this much waffle-based fun be available at any other university in the world? We think not.

Stay safe, Hawks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development