

Dear Quincy University community:

The first day of 2020 Fall Semester classes is one week away!

This message is the fifty-seventh 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 new video highlighting many safety procedures for the QU community. As of this evening, the website also includes an updated Q&A document.

The next Quincy University update will be emailed to you no later than Monday, August 17. As students arrive at the university this week and classes begin, it is possible that future COVID-19 updates will become more frequent.

A total of 536 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 113 of which are considered active cases. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 20,075 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 have six Adams County residents.

There are now 195,399 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 59,954 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.

All new and returning students are reminded to read all QU emails carefully and to check email several times a week. Many students will receive one or more important emails every day in the weeks near the beginning of the semester. It is imperative that students read and respond promptly to those messages.

If you are a new or returning student and have not already checked in at QU, please remember to bring your negative COVID-19 test results OR to email Dr. Tracy if you cannot get a test or won't have the results back before check-in. Contact your local

hospital, health department or CVS drug store and tell them you need to be tested in order to return to college.

Congratulations to our new students, the great majority of whom checked in on Friday or Saturday. Students, parents, and family members were very responsible in maintaining physical distance and wearing facemasks. Please keep up this good work!

Upon arrival on campus for check-in, everyone will have a temperature check and symptom check completed by our athletic trainers. If anyone has symptoms, has been near someone with symptoms, or has tested positive for COVID-19, they will not be able to participate in check-in/move-in or help with check-in. Any student who is worried about the results of the temperature check or symptom check should contact the Office of Student Development before coming to campus. Students will be asked to complete several tasks at check-in, including the Healthy Hawks Compact and a waiver document for contagious viruses, including COVID-19.

As you know, masks are required in QU buildings at all times of everyone, including during check-in and move-in. As students arrive on campus for the first time, or for the first time in several months, they should be aware of signs on campus that provide specific directions for foot traffic, wearing masks, and maintaining a safe distance.

Since QU announced that COVID-19 viral testing would be required in order for students to return to face-to-face classes, a total of 23 positive tests for new or returning QU students have been confirmed. One of those students currently is quarantined on the QU campus, while the remaining 22 students are quarantining at home. Such positive tests often identify students who are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. These positive test results are not surprising, and they reaffirm the importance for all members of our community of wearing masks, physical distancing, and hand hygiene. 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.

The QU Bookstore is open and operating on the following schedule from August 2 – August 22:

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Mon – Fri

10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat - Sun

Up to 15 customers can be accommodated at one time in the bookstore. Masks are required while in the store. Non-textbook sales will be limited during this date range. The online store is a convenient way to purchase QU apparel. Please see the

attached flyers in your email on QU spirit gear and on accessing digital textbooks. For other bookstore information, call (217) 228-5432 ext.3600 or email 0407mgr@follett.com.

For residential students at QU, there is a new system to register Wi-Fi devices, including TVs and Game Consoles. Here is the link to the instructions, which you can only access while on campus: https://my.quincy.edu/ICS/WiFi_Info.jnz.

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.

This polite reminder is also a statement of Quincy University policy: 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. We congratulate the new students who correctly answered President McGee's questions on Saturday about the contents of this paragraph. You aced your first pop quiz!

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.

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/>.

After dozens of summer emails revealed President McGee's deep suspicion of Quincy's growing and malevolent squirrel population, QU student Meghan Salamon '22 presented him with a miniature picnic table in Quincy University colors, a table suitable for squirrel use. It seems Meghan hoped that a bright and attractive picnic table might distract the squirrels from carrying out their evil plans for global domination. Meghan's gift is charming and beautifully made, and President McGee deeply appreciates the sentiment. However, President McGee doubts the squirrels will be easily dissuaded from their wicked plan to lay waste to our park-like campus and, eventually, the galaxy. We know what you are doing, squirrels.

Stay safe, Hawks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development

P.S. Unlike last week, President McGee just had his Monday-night waffles. To be more specific, he made chicken and waffles, complete with honey mustard, chocolate syrup, strawberries, chocolate chips, maple syrup, and confectioners' sugar. The side salad made his dinner entirely healthy, of course. Students (and, by special request, Professor Meacher) can anticipate their own waffle-eating opportunity at the end of the August. Details of this QU waffle event for the ages will be announced in a few days. All are reminded that President McGee's waffles are not available via DoorDash, though Quincy would be an even better place if they were.