

Dear Quincy University community:

The first day of 2020 Fall Semester classes is complete! Congratulations to all new and returning Hawks on a great first day – and one where people were generally being safe and responsible. Thank you!

This message is the fifty-eighth 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 that was updated last week.

The next Quincy University update will be emailed to you no later than Monday, August 24. As classes get underway, it is possible that future COVID-19 updates will become more frequent.

A total of 649 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 143 of which are considered active cases. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 21,894 confirmed negative COVID-19 tests. There are 14 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 207,854 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 68,623 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.

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

Students should read all QU emails carefully and check email several times a week, especially for the first few weeks of classes. 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. For example, President McGee assumes that every one of his COM 101 students already have read the emails he has sent them and will be fully prepared for class tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. Are we right, people?

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 47 positive tests for new or returning QU students have been confirmed. One of those students currently is quarantining on the QU campus, and that student's quarantine ends tomorrow. The remaining students are typically quarantining at home, with many about to complete their quarantines. Such positive tests have very frequently identified students who are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. These positive test results are not surprising, given what we know about community spread in the United States. The test results 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. As a reminder, these are 47 students who were infected BEFORE the semester began. Many of these students are from Quincy, Adams County, or the surrounding counties. Many students are from other parts of Illinois, Missouri, or elsewhere, where they presumably became infected. It is our belief that QU's pre-semester COVID-19 testing program resulted in many students quarantining who would not otherwise have done so, with a possible reduction in early-semester infections. This testing has probably allowed students to more safely become part of this fall's university community.

We'd like to address one point on which there has been a bit of confusion: To be clear, some members of our community may be self-quarantined, even if they have NOT tested positive, because those individuals have been exposed to someone who is positive. Again, some people may be quarantined who have not tested positive and may never test positive.

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.

Students needing assistance with textbooks should contact the bookstore. Emails will be sent from the QU Bookstore if a student has a backorder item that is ready for pickup at the bookstore. For other bookstore information, call (217) 228-5432 ext.3600 or email [0407mgr@follett.com](mailto:0407mgr@follett.com).

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 reminder is a bit like the song you've heard too often, but keep hearing: 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. President McGee continues to be on the lookout for more brown-and-white masks, as there's no such thing as too much Hawk pride. Dr. Tracy is happy whenever community members wear their masks properly, whatever their color scheme.

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/>. On Saturday, President McGee was grateful for all the kind birthday wishes on Twitter and in person.

Today has been Black Cat Appreciation Day, which -- and we swear we are not making this up -- should not be confused with the entirely separate National Black Cat Day. Black Cat Appreciation Day is designed in part to allow us to dispel superstitions and myths about black cats being bad luck or associated with witchcraft. President McGee doesn't believe in luck and has a Massachusetts ancestor who was wrongly accused of witchcraft in the seventeenth century, so this holiday doesn't do much for him. However, he is a fan of any black cat who enjoys squirrel season.

On a serious note, we were grateful to see students and other members of our community at Sunday night mass in the beautiful Quincy University chapel. We have waited a long time for this chance, once again, to worship and pray as a community. For this new year, whatever our different faith traditions might be, may all of us be safe, may any who fall ill recover quickly, and may we all experience the joy and wonder of learning.

Sleep well, Hawks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development