

Dear Quincy University community:

It's August, and the first day of 2020 Fall Semester classes is two weeks away. We are eager to see students safely return to campus.

This message is the fifty-sixth 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 10. As students arrive at the university this week, prior to the start of most classes on August 17, it is possible that future COVID-19 updates will become more frequent.

A total of 435 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 94 of which are considered active cases. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 18,058 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 four Adams County residents.

There are now 183,241 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 52,887 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. As of this evening, four emails have been sent to the relevant new and continuing students to provide them information for check-in. If you do not know the time and day you are checking in, please check your email.

As you arrive on campus for check-in, 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.

Upon arrival on campus, 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.

Masks are required on QU campus at all times of everyone, including during check-in and move-in.

Since QU announced that COVID-19 testing would be required in order for students to return to face-to-face classes, six positive tests for new or returning QU students have been confirmed. Those 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.

As you know, 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.

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. New hand-sanitizing stations are available in campus buildings. Some campus construction and renovation projects are nearing completion, including new sidewalks in front of Helein Hall, but those projects may not be entirely complete when some students first arrive.

The next reminder is critically important as students begin to appear on campus, as noted above: 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.

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/>.

Our success at QU in successfully starting the fall semester depends on every member of our community following directions and protecting themselves and others in the middle of a global disease pandemic. We absolutely can do this, Hawks. Our success as a community will require each of us to be personally responsible and think about others and their safety, rather than our own needs and desires. Thank you, in advance, for all you will be doing to protect yourselves and one another.

We'll see you soon!

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development

P.S. This update came a bit late to your email inboxes. If President McGee had consumed his usual morning serving of rich, chocolaty waffles dripping in fresh Maple Syrup, surely everything would have been on time.