

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the sixty-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 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, September 28.

This message has been reorganized in response to suggestions from some members of our community.

Here are some of the most relevant data points at present for Quincy University and COVID-19:

- Sixty-nine positive COVID-19 viral tests have been reported this semester for QU students after those students arrived at the university.
- Forty-five of those 69 students currently have active COVID-19 infections and are in quarantine.
- Twenty-four of those 69 students have completed their quarantine periods and are not active cases.
- Some very recent tests of students who already were quarantined because of exposure but are currently asymptomatic also came back with positive COVID-19 tests, which accounts for some recent positive tests.
- The remaining students were tested because they had one or more COVID-19 symptoms and ultimately had positive test results; those students currently are in quarantine and are recovering from their infections.
- 129 students are currently in quarantine, including all active positive cases. Thirty-nine students have been released from quarantine since the last update, which explains why the number of quarantined students has declined since the report last week.
- Ninety-three rooms on campus currently are available for quarantine, an increase in room availability since the last update.

As will likely be the case on any given day, we are awaiting student test results for COVID-19.

The 129 QU students who are quarantined at present have been placed in quarantine (1) because they have active COVID-19 infections, (2) as a precaution because of one

or more COVID-19 symptoms, (3) because they have been exposed to someone who is being tested, or (4) they have been in close contact with someone who has had a positive test. **As noted in previous messages, people may be quarantined who have not had a positive test and may never have a positive test.** The majority of those who are quarantined in the typical week have not had a positive COVID-19 test. Because of the different reasons for which people are quarantined, some people may only be quarantined for a few days, while others may be quarantined for two weeks or more.

As already announced and as previously scheduled, we had new surveillance testing of 140 individuals earlier today. This routine testing responds to NCAA testing guidelines and is part of QU's overall strategy for monitoring and reducing COVID-19 infections on campus. You may recall that surveillance testing is testing of people who do not currently have COVID-19 symptoms and have not been exposed to someone who is COVID-19-positive. Such testing helps us to find people with infections who will never show symptoms (i.e., asymptomatic cases) or people who are not yet showing symptoms, though they are infected and will soon experience symptoms. Many other universities, including other universities in our region, are doing little or no surveillance testing, and their COVID-19 numbers are not comparable to ours. Some other universities, including a few in our region, conduct surveillance testing using different and potentially less sensitive tests. Again, the use of different testing methods and procedures will produce results that cannot be compared to ours at QU. More surveillance testing will be conducted at QU in the future.

Here's the simplest possible summary for the current academic semester:

COVID-19 Test Summary for QU Students

Number of Student Positive Tests, Active Cases	45
Number of Previous Positive Tests, Not Active Cases	24
Total Number of Cases Following QU Entry for Fall 2020	69

We are not aware of any positive COVID-19 test in the current semester for any QU employee or vendor. We will continue to be transparent about the number of COVID-19 cases involving students, employees, and vendors, as we are made aware of those tests.

Here's our review of the current COVID-19 situation at Quincy University:

1. We continue to follow our plan for COVID-19 testing and to have confidence in that plan. At QU, the combination of symptomatic and

asymptomatic testing is designed to help us limit new infections. We always expected there would be new symptomatic and asymptomatic cases on campus this semester, as we saw last week.

2. Once received, today's COVID-19 surveillance test results will almost certainly identify some people who are or have previously been infected and have never had a COVID-19 symptom. Our goal is to find such people, make sure they have the services they need, and use this information to reduce future COVID-19 infections.

3. We are using contact tracing and quarantining to find people who may have a COVID-19 infection, keep them safe, make certain they have testing and medical care, and prevent them from infecting other people. Our quarantining procedures are more aggressive than the procedures used by many other organizations, with the aim of quickly reducing the opportunities for the disease to spread. Our quarantining decisions are made, when appropriate, in consultation with the Adams County Health Department.

4. *The new COVID-19 positive tests of the past few days came in part from students who already were in quarantine*, which means our measures already had reduced the risk of those students infecting others.

5. Students and employees are largely following our health and safety guidelines, and we appreciate their responsibility and hard work. Some of us can do even better, and we ask everyone to remain very committed to wearing masks and distancing. It is essential that students, faculty, and staff report symptoms of anything that might be COVID-19 as soon as possible. While some of us might be tempted to avoid reporting a symptom on the grounds that the symptom seems minor, a healthcare professional, not an individual student or employee, should make this determination. There is *no* acceptable reason for failing to inform us about a medical symptom that might point to COVID-19.

6. Unsubstantiated and inaccurate rumors are a regular feature of this pandemic, including at QU and other universities. For example, no QU residence halls have been locked down or quarantined, and no decisions have been made to change our current approach at QU to teaching or to residence life. Further, while some of our NCAA sports teams have had multiple students infected or quarantined, no team has had all its members infected or quarantined. Regarding rumors more generally, President McGee and Dr. Tracy occasionally are surprised to hear about the decisions they allegedly have made or are going to make, based on the wise testimony of people they have never met or have not spoken to about the pandemic. Let's not spread rumors, Hawks.

7. At QU, we will make decisions about COVID-19 based on community safety and the best available scientific information, as informed by recommendations of the CDC, the State of Illinois, the NCAA Sport Science

Institute, and the Adams County Health Department. Our decisions will not be influenced by politics or any other irrelevant consideration.

8. We understand that many members of our community are experiencing unprecedented levels of depression and anxiety. Resources are available to help you, and we are working to announce some additional programming for students, faculty, and staff on this issue.

9. If you are already a student on campus and in Quincy, Quincy is the best and safest place for you to be for the remainder of the semester. Consistent with the very strong advice of the CDC, QU students should not leave the Quincy area in mid-semester, as doing so causes new COVID-19 risks for students and for families.

10. As a reminder, asymptomatic people who are infected with the virus pose very little risk to members of our community if all of us are wearing masks, practicing physical distancing, and are committed to good hand hygiene.

In short, testing, contact tracing, and quarantining are very effective tools for fighting the pandemic and are working properly at QU. We are continuing to take the necessary steps to ensure the safest possible experience for students, faculty, and staff. Please President McGee or Dr. Tracy know if you have specific questions about COVID-19.

As background for our safety measures at QU, we continue to report local and statewide COVID-19 information to all members of our community. As of today, a total of 977 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 118 of which are considered active cases. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 29,415 confirmed negative COVID-19 tests. There are seven 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 ten Adams County residents.

There have been 275,735 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 have been 114,307 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

We want to thank all those who are providing assistance with food services, cleaning, and other support for students in quarantine. Your work, all done with the aim of maximizing our safety as a community, is deeply appreciated. We also are grateful for

all those faculty and staff who have adapted courses and services to meet the needs of our students, often under very challenging conditions.

We will get through this pandemic, Hawks. We believe in you and are proud of your accomplishments. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to keep yourselves safe and others safe around you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development

P.S. Last week, one member of our community was saddened by our failure to recognize the elaborate constructed languages of J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, complete with multiple Elvish languages. So, here's to you, LOTR nerds. President McGee recognizes that Tolkien is awesome, and he has his complete childhood set of Tolkien books to prove he has always been one of you.

P.P.S. President McGee concluded his work on this update while listening to the greatest hits of Duran Duran. Judge him for that if you'd like.