

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the sixtieth 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 7. Depending on campus events, it is possible that future COVID-19 updates will become more frequent.

A total of 763 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 79 of which are considered active cases. Some of these cases spread within households. The Quincy region also has had 24,796 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 seven Adams County residents.

There have been 235,023 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 84,697 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 has concluded for students taking face-to-face classes at QU this fall. No new positive tests have been reported since Monday, August 17, for students entering the university.

Five positive COVID-19 viral tests have been reported this semester for students after those students arrived at the university. Four of those five students have already completed their quarantine periods. One of those five Quincy University students had a positive COVID-19 test in the past week and is currently quarantined.

The 20 QU students who are quarantined at present have been placed there (1) because they have had a positive COVID-19, (2) as a precaution because of one or

more COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) 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 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 test. Because of their housing arrangements, some students are quarantined at off-campus locations.

We are not aware of any positive COVID-19 test in the current semester for any QU employee. 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.

We congratulate all students, faculty, and staff for their attention to our rules for preventing the spread of COVID-19 on campus. The members of our community are doing a very good job of mask-wearing, which we greatly appreciate. Some of us need to keep working on placing masks securely over both the nose and mouth. Also, we know that physical distancing can be difficult to remember, but we urge people to stay six feet apart. Even when six feet away from another person, you will still be close enough to hold important conversations, which ideally would include making fun of the consistently terrible acting in the *Star Wars* movies. Really, you should. (And, no, we're not just talking about your acting, Hayden Christensen.)

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.

If you are a student and received this COVID-19 update via email, you presumably are reading and using a Quincy University email account. Please use your QU account in all correspondence with university faculty and staff, and please check your QU email regularly. As a matter of policy, and to maintain privacy and security, all QU deadlines and actions are sent to you via university email.

Textbook distribution for the fall semester is being finalized this week. If you have an outstanding textbook issue of any sort, please stop by or otherwise contact the bookstore as soon as possible, and no later than Friday of this week.

The University's Hawks Help Committee is preparing to distribute CARES Act funds to many QU students on or about September 21, 2020. Students who have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2020-2021 academic year and

have completed the federal verification process, if selected, will be eligible for consideration for CARES Act financial assistance. In accordance with guidance from the Federal Government, funds will be distributed based on financial need, as indicated by data drawn from the FAFSA. There is no other application process for this round of assistance. The Hawks Help Committee will provide additional updates as we get closer to September 21. For more information, email HawksHelp@quincy.edu. A member of the committee will respond to your inquiry.

It sounds like parental hyperbole, but we truly are saying this for the *sixtieth time*: 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.

Last week, President McGee shared a link to a site at which *Star Trek*-themed facemasks might be purchased. Not surprisingly, President McGee bought one and will be wearing it sometime this week. He very much hopes he was not the only nerd who made this choice. Peace and long life.

Our thanks to the many students who joined the waffle-eating extravaganza on Saturday between 11:00-1:00. President McGee has never made so many waffles in his happy, waffle-making life, but he enjoyed every minute of it.

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/>. President McGee now has over 500 followers on Twitter, which may demonstrate only that people are desperate for anything resembling entertainment in 2020.

Have a great evening, Hawks. Live long, prosper, and eat more waffles.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brian McGee, President
Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development