

Dear Quincy University community:

We have had a request to move our summary statement to the top of each COVID-19 update. So, here's the simplest possible summary for the current academic semester:

COVID-19 Test Summary for QU Students

Number of Student Positive Tests, Current Active Cases	2
Number of Previous Positive Tests, Not Active Cases	94
Total Number of Cases Following QU Entry for Fall 2020	96

This message is the sixty-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. The next Quincy University update will be emailed to you no later than Monday, October 12.

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

- Ninety-six positive COVID-19 viral tests have been reported this semester for QU students after those students arrived at the university.
- Two of those 96 students currently have active COVID-19 infections and are in quarantine.
- Ninety-four of those 96 students have completed their quarantine periods and are not active cases.
- Nineteen students are currently in quarantine, including all active positive cases. Many more students have been released from quarantine in the past week than have been placed in quarantine, which explains why the number of quarantined students has declined so significantly.
- Over 100 rooms on campus currently are available for quarantine. As noted previously on many occasions, the number of students in quarantine changes almost daily.

The 19 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.

We had surveillance testing today, October 5, for about 140 individuals. This third round of routine surveillance testing responds to NCAA testing guidelines and also 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. More surveillance testing will be conducted at QU in the future.

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 any positive 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. Ultimately, though, the best way to reduce our risk for COVID-19 infection is the consistent use of masking, distancing, and good hand hygiene.
2. The results from today's surveillance testing will be available later this week. This testing is highly likely to find more asymptomatic positive cases among the QU student population and result in several students being placed in quarantine, for the reasons described below.
3. **In the last two COVID-19 updates, we announced limitations on indoor dining and gatherings, including requests that all members of our community avoid use of indoor restaurant seating and minimize shopping trips through Friday, October 9.** At present, those on campus should eat outdoors or eat in residence hall rooms, either alone or only in the company of

roommates. Thank you for your understanding and support for these practical measures to reduce our infections.

4. We are using contact tracing and quarantining to find people who may have a COVID-19 infection, to keep them safe, to make certain they have testing and medical care, and to 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.

5. 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. Also, if you intend for any reason to have a COVID-19 test or you have taken a COVID-19 test, please contact Dr. Tracy immediately with the details of your situation.

6. The Health and Well Being Clinic is open to all students and offers Nurse Practitioner Services and Counseling Services. If you need counseling services please call 217-222-6550 ext. 3418 and you can set up a telehealth appointment, a face-to-face appointment on our campus, or at QMG at no cost. If you need to see the Nurse Practitioner please see her on the Friars' Hall main floor during the following times. She will be offering flu shots for all students who want one, and flu shots are strongly encouraged for all of us during the pandemic.

Monday	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Thursday	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

7. 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.

8. 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 committed to good hand hygiene.

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 1,245 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the Quincy region (i.e., Adams County), 161 of which are considered active cases. Some of these cases spread within

households. The Quincy region also has had 33,067 confirmed negative COVID-19 tests. There are 22 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 303,394 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 133,418 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Missouri.

Distribution of the second round of CARES Act student awards has been completed, with checks mailed to students. If you have any questions about this distribution, please contact hawkshelp@quincy.edu.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, we hope all members of our community who are eligible either have registered or shortly will register to vote and will exercise their rights as U.S. citizens. Please attend to the deadlines for voter registration and absentee balloting for the state in which you expect to vote. In certain cases, students and others who want to vote by absentee ballot may need a notary. Please contact Student Financial Services if you need notary assistance.

We would not want you to miss out on this important reminder: Masking, distancing, and good hand hygiene are essential to keeping people safe from infection and out of quarantine. All members of our campus community are expected to follow our safety procedures both on campus and off campus.

As you read here, we currently have only a few active COVID-19 cases on campus. However, we must continue to be cautious and follow the rules designed to keep us safe. In many parts of the United States, we have seen a recent increase in COVID-19 cases. No one is safe from this infection.

Finally, we know these updates are long, detailed, and somewhat repetitive. We continue to believe that providing you with too much information is better than supplying you with too little. Further, we believe that context and explanation are needed when discussing the current pandemic, rather than a few numbers on a chart, graph, or table. Thank you for your patience with our approach. And, if you have questions about COVID-19, the current semester, or the continuing dangers posed by the Squirrel Queen and her minions, please ask those questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development

P.S. President McGee concluded his work on this update while listening to Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, which nicely complemented his listening adventures earlier in the day with Common. If you don't like President McGee's musical choices, you are welcome to suggest other options. You might not want to leave him to his own devices, or he could start regaling you with stories of his favorite Drum Corps closers.