

Dear Quincy University community:

Only three more class days remain for the 2020 Fall Semester! We know all Hawks will be working hard this weekend to prepare for final examinations.

Please see the conclusion of this message for **new COVID-19 recommendations** related to community spread of COVID-19 in Adams County, Illinois.

This message is the seventy-eighth update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here's the simplest possible summary for the current academic semester:

### COVID-19 Test Summary for QU Students (Fall 2020)

Number of Student Positive Tests, Active Cases	4
Number of Previous Positive Tests, Not Active Cases	221
<b>Total Number of Cases Following QU Entry for Fall 2020</b>	<b>225</b>

### COVID-19 Data

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

- **225** positive COVID-19 viral tests have been reported this semester for QU students after those students arrived at the university. One additional student who only takes online courses and does not live locally also has reported a positive COVID-19 test.
- **Four** of those 225 students currently have active COVID-19 infections and are in quarantine.
- **221** of those 225 students have completed their quarantine periods and are not active cases.
- **Forty-eight** students are currently in quarantine, including all active positive cases and many other students who have not tested positive for COVID-19. 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.
- **Over 100 rooms** on campus currently are available for quarantine use.
- We are aware of **six** positive COVID-19 tests in the current semester for non-instructional staff members, **four** positive tests for faculty members, and **five** positive tests for employees of QU vendors. Six of these 15 individuals

are quarantined; nine of these 15 are not active cases. We will continue to be transparent about the number of COVID-19 cases involving students, employees, and vendors, as we are notified about them.

*Note:* One additional student who only takes online courses and does not live locally has previously tested positive for COVID-19. This student is excluded from our reporting of on-campus and local cases (see above), but we are concerned for the safety and recovery of all QU students.

### Surveillance Testing

We will conduct a sixth round of surveillance testing on Monday, November 16, for at least 140 individuals. In addition to the students taking part in the scheduled surveillance testing on November 16, other students and members of our community who wish to take a **free COVID-19 test** before traveling for Thanksgiving or the December holidays are also welcome to take their test on November 16. Most importantly, **please contact Dr. Tracy at [tracych@quincy.edu](mailto:tracych@quincy.edu) by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13, if you want to schedule an appointment for a free COVID-19 test on November 16.**

Quincy University has been conducting surveillance testing of students during the current semester and plans to continue doing so during the spring academic terms for students taking in-person courses. 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 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.

### Our Current Situation

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 surveillance 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**.

COVID-19 positive test counts will rise and fall from one week to the next.

2. At QU, all available evidence continues to indicate that students are contracting COVID-19 in their social and residential interactions. While students are being careful and behaving responsibly overall, the pattern is that students are contracting the disease in interactions with family, friends, and romantic partners, in both on- and off-campus settings. Thus far, it appears **students are not contracting the disease in classrooms, laboratories, or organized sports practices or games**. We remind all students that **violations of our COVID-19 protocols and campus rules may lead to sanctions under the accountability process**, as explained in the *Student Handbook*.

3. At QU, all available evidence also indicates that faculty, staff, and vendors are contracting COVID-19 in their social and residential interactions. For example, we have yet to trace a single COVID-19 infection to contact in a QU classroom.

4. In previous COVID-19 updates, we **announced limitations on indoor dining and gatherings on campus, along with requests that all members of our community avoid use of indoor restaurant seating and minimize shopping trips. Those limitations and related requests will remain in place through at least Wednesday, November 25**. At present, **those on campus should eat outdoors or eat in residence hall rooms, either alone or only in the company of roommates**. The increase in recent weeks in COVID-19 cases in the Midwest, Illinois, and Adams County requires that we continue to restrict dining opportunities, both on and off campus.

5. We are using **contact tracing** and **quarantining** to find people who may have a COVID-19 infection, to keep them safe, to make certain the right people have testing and medical care, and to prevent those who may have the disease from infecting other people. Our quarantining decisions are made, when appropriate, in consultation with the Adams County Health Department.

6. As we have said many times in the past, 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**.

7. **If you intend for any reason to have a COVID-19 test** or you have taken a COVID-19 test not arranged by the university, **please contact Dr. Tracy immediately** with the details of your situation.

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.
9. End-of-semester guidelines for leaving campus and the Quincy region have been distributed via email to all members of the campus community. If you can't locate those messages, see QU's coronavirus website for a link to those guidelines.

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 COVID-19 email update from the university is anticipated no later than November 16, 2020.

### **Local and State Reports on COVID-19 Cases**

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 3,255 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the **Quincy region (i.e., Adams County)**, with 936 active cases at present. There are 70 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 34 Adams County residents.

There have been 536,542 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.

**Missouri** reports its COVID-19 cases only for the past seven days and does not provide daily updates to its COVID-19 summary. Information about COVID-19 in Missouri is available at <https://showmestrong.mo.gov/data/public-health/>.

### **New COVID-19 Recommendations**

As the semester concludes, QU has its lowest number of active student COVID-19 cases since early September. Our progress in reducing these case numbers at QU is a credit to the work of our students in following public health guidelines. Masking and

physical distancing are not perfect, but they are very effective. Thanks to everyone who has worked to keep the QU community safe!

Unfortunately, COVID-19 case numbers are increasing nationally, including in Adams County. In much of the Midwest, including Quincy, we have what public health professionals would call uncontrolled, community-wide spread. Most of those leaving Adams County at the end of the current semester will travel to places where conditions are similar. Extraordinary measures are now needed to control the spread of the virus.

For the safety of all QU students, faculty, and staff, we are once again asking every member of our community to avoid non-essential shopping and off-campus events and activities. Residential students should avoid leaving the QU campus for the remainder of the semester to the fullest extent possible. Students living off-campus should attempt to travel only from home to QU and back, along with unavoidable travel to work and very limited shopping for essential needs.

With regret, Saturday bowling will be canceled for November 14. As always, members of our community should avoid larger gatherings and should always employ masking and distancing when with people other than their roommates.

This is important, Hawks. We need your help to keep you safe and to keep others safe. Now is not the time to let down your guard. Be safe. Be smart.

-----

Your reward for your hard work this semester will be a video next week of President McGee's brand new (to him), never-before-used 1962 Westinghouse waffle maker getting to make its very first waffle. It's only been 58 years since this waffle-making beauty came off an assembly line in Ohio! President McGee looks forward to savoring his next waffle and to making more waffles for students when everyone is back on campus in February.

In the language St. Francis of Assisi might use if he had a disturbing fondness for breakfast, "Cuore mio! Cialde!"

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