

Dear Quincy University community:

This message is the eightieth update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here's the simplest possible summary for the last update of the 2020 fall terms:

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

Number of Student Positive Tests, Active Cases	17
Number of Previous Positive Tests, Not Active Cases	232
Total Number of Cases Following QU Entry for Fall 2020	249

COVID-19 Data

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

- **249** 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.
- **Seventeen** of those 249 students currently have active COVID-19 infections and are in quarantine.
- **232** of those 249 students have completed their quarantine periods and are not active cases.
- **Thirty-five** 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. Quarantine services will continue to be available at QU following the conclusion of the current semester, but very, very few students will still be in quarantine on campus after Wednesday.
- **Over 100 rooms** on campus currently are available for quarantine use.
- We are aware of **11** positive COVID-19 tests in the current semester for non-instructional staff members, **three** positive tests for faculty members, and **four** positive tests for employees of QU vendors. Two of these 18 individuals are quarantined; 16 of these 18 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 conducted a sixth round of surveillance testing on Monday, November 16, for about 130 individuals. (Fewer individuals participated in this round of testing than was previously reported.) In addition to the students taking part in the scheduled surveillance testing on November 16, several students and members of our community took a COVID-19 exam prior to the Thanksgiving and December holidays, with the aim of reducing the transmission of COVID-19 over the holiday period.

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. 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. The best way to reduce our risk for COVID-19 infection is the consistent use of **masking, distancing, and good hand hygiene**. All members of the QU community should continue to follow these public health safety guidelines as the semester ends and over the holidays.
2. At QU, all available evidence also indicates that faculty, staff, and vendor employees 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. In contrast, we have traced many COVID-19 cases to family interactions and to some off-campus locations.
3. Over the holiday break and during J-term, limited campus dining services will be available, as previously announced in other messages addressed to the university community. 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, December 16. 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.

4. For any student living on the QU campus over break and for all employees, 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.**

5. **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. For those remaining in the Quincy region, the Adams County Health Department is now offering free, rapid COVID-19 testing in the parking lot of the former Shopko on Broadway, just a few minutes from campus. While any QU community member should feel free to take advantage of this testing, it is important that anyone using this resource (or testing elsewhere) contact Dr. Tracy at tracych@quincy.edu.

6. **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. In the event you are on campus at present and are planning to leave campus at any time during the holidays, we urge you to review and follow 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. Beginning today, the website also includes an updated Q&A document. The next COVID-19 email update from the university is anticipated no later than December 7, 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 4,395 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the **Quincy region (i.e., Adams County)**, with 987 active cases at present. There are 96 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 43 Adams County residents.

There have been 664,620 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/>.

COVID-19 Recommendations

At present, the State of Illinois is under Tier 3 mitigation measures to control the spread of COVID-19. Many hospitals in the state and in our region have relatively few available hospital beds. It is essential that all of us do our part to reduce the spread of the disease, especially at a time when more people are traveling. Please be very diligent in masking, distancing, using good hand hygiene, and in avoiding unnecessary travel, shopping, and face-to-face gatherings.

This will be a difficult Thanksgiving for many of us. The good news is that highly effective COVID-19 vaccines appear to have been developed and will be available for widespread use in the coming months. We all can look forward to a much different Thanksgiving in 2021. In the meantime, Hawks, be safe.

While we deeply regret the need to cancel the winter commencement because of Illinois's new COVID-19 restrictions, President McGee looks forward to taking photos with several graduating Hawks tomorrow and Wednesday. We hope to see many of you at the spring commencement!

QU's waffle fans will be pleased to know that President McGee's recently acquired vintage waffle maker works perfectly. Pictures are available on Twitter

at https://twitter.com/Quincy_uMcGee/status/1330634302703476739. We look forward to more waffle-eating fun in a few months!

Congratulations to the students, faculty, and staff of Quincy University on the end of this difficult semester and most challenging of years. Your accomplishments have been extraordinary. May you always be proud of what you have accomplished. You have our respect and our admiration.

May God bless the people of Quincy University. May God keep all of us safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development

P.S. One more time: As we work to complete the semester, please don't forget to return textbooks to the bookstore. For this semester, students can use the following three options to return their textbooks to the QU Bookstore:

- (1) In-Person. The QU Bookstore will be open regular hours until its early closing at 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 25.
- (2) After store hours. The Bookstore has a drop box set up at the old Mailroom that students can use to return their rented books if it is after store hours.
- (3) Via Free Shipping. Students who need to return their books remotely can use the attached instructions to print out a free return shipping label to ship their books back to campus.