

Dear Quincy University community:

Welcome to March! This message is the eighty-fifth update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here's our review of the COVID-19 situation for the Quincy University community:

1. There are **no known COVID-19 infections on campus** for QU students. There are no students in quarantine on the QU campus. Quarantine facilities are available on campus, in the event they are needed.
2. Approximately 250 COVID-19 tests were administered on campus for students coming to QU prior to the spring semester, and **over 1,200 COVID-19 rapid tests** have been administered on the QU campus since the beginning of the spring semester. Thus far, there have been **two positive test results** in our on-campus testing.
3. We are aware of a total of **two active COVID-19 cases for QU students**. Those students are now in off-campus quarantine.
4. Six other students are currently in off-campus quarantine because they have been in **close contact** with people known to have active COVID-19 infections. To be clear, these six students have not tested positive for COVID-19 and may never have a positive test.
5. **One other student previously reported a positive test for COVID-19 since the semester began**. That student has completed quarantine and is no longer an active case.
6. Mandatory surveillance testing for COVID-19 is occurring this semester for **student athletes**. The frequency of testing for each student athlete depends on the nature of student contact in each individual sport, as designated by the NCAA.
7. As previously described in emails sent by Dr. Tracy, **mandatory surveillance testing** for COVID-19 also is being conducted this semester for **non-student athletes** who are taking one or more courses on the QU campus. This is a new requirement for non-student athletes and is intended to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by those who are infected and asymptomatic.
8. Some QU students are required to participate in **COVID-19 surveillance testing provided through their local employers in Quincy**. As a result, more testing of QU students is taking place than is reported in this email message. Again, we ask all students to report their test results to Dr. Tracy.
9. Faculty, staff, and vendor employees should continue to seek out COVID-19 testing when they have one or more COVID-19 symptoms, usually at the Adams County rapid testing center, at the Blessing Hospital testing center, or on the QU campus. Those faculty, staff, and vendor employees seeking to

arrange a rapid COVID-19 test on campus should contact Dr. Tracy directly. **We are aware of one COVID-19 infection involving a faculty, staff, or vendor employee for the spring semester.**

10. 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.

11. For any student currently living on the QU campus 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.**

12. **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, no matter where you are living right now, **please contact Dr. Tracy** with the details of your situation.

13. New guidance regarding COVID-19 testing, safety, and quarantine protocols continues to be announced by federal, state, and county sources. Updates to our policies and procedures will be announced by email as those updates are available.

14. For a variety of reasons, many QU faculty, staff, and vendor employees have received one or both shots of a **COVID-19 vaccine**. Some students also have received the vaccine, usually because of the nature of their employment or volunteer work. We continue to appreciate the good work of the Adams County Health Department in getting people vaccinated.

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/>.

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. Because the pandemic was declared about 11 months ago, it is no longer useful to report total case numbers. We will continue to provide active case counts and current hospitalizations. In the **Quincy region (i.e., Adams County)**, there are 71 active cases at present. There are four current hospitalizations in Adams County linked to COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic, one Missouri resident has died in Adams County of causes related to COVID-19, as have 114 Adams County

residents. Information about COVID-19 cases in Illinois, including county-by-county reports, is available at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>. QU updates on COVID-19 cases are taken from the public reports of state and county agencies.

Missouri reports its COVID-19 cases 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/>.

Announcements

St. Bonaventure University (SBU) is, like QU, a Catholic and Franciscan university. While St. Bonaventure is located over 800 miles away from Quincy, Illinois, we at QU feel a connection to their students, faculty, and staff.

We are deeply saddened to report that, after a long hospitalization, SBU's president, Dr. Dennis DePerro, has died of complications related to COVID-19. We ask for the prayers of the QU family for the family of President DePerro and all members of the St. Bonaventure community.

Stay vigilant, Hawks, and continue to keep one another safe. Have a good rest of the week.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development