

Dear Quincy University community:

Today's message is the ninety-sixth update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It may also be the shortest COVID-19 email update we have shared in the past several months, as we continue to inform you about QU's response to the **Illinois Governor's new executive order** on facemasks and vaccination.

At about 3:00 p.m. today (August 30, 2021), Dr. Tracy sent an email to members of the QU community, including students, faculty, and staff, who we believe are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated. Dr. Tracy's message was NOT sent to those of you we know are fully vaccinated. The purpose of Dr. Tracy's message was to provide specific instructions on several points and to provide QU's **Vaccine Declination or Deferral Request form**, which needs to be completed and submitted to covid@quincy.edu by any unvaccinated member of our community. The deadline for submission of the form is **September 7, 2021**. As you know, we created this form as part of our work to comply with the Governor's executive order, which affects all public and private universities in Illinois.

Again, if you are fully vaccinated, you should not have received Dr. Tracy's email. Don't worry about it. You don't need the form, and you don't need to submit it to anyone.

If you know you should have received Dr. Tracy's email and you didn't, please contact her immediately. We do not want there to be any delay in anyone's ability to complete the Vaccine Declination or Deferral Request form.

If you are an employee of a QU business partner, please speak with your supervisor if you have any questions about COVID-19 testing or vaccination.

Finally, and **effective today, you generally should be wearing a mask when you are in any indoor public space**, Hawks, whether you are vaccinated or not. Further, you should be wearing a mask in any indoor public space in the State of Illinois, whether you are on QU's campus or off campus.

We anticipate having another COVID-19 email update for you on Wednesday or Thursday. Until then, have a great Monday evening, Hawks, and watch out for those ruthless, acorn-stealing campus squirrels.

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

P.S. We are aware of a widely circulated internet video claiming that medical swabs contain or make use of a cancer-causing substance. The suggestion is that use of a medical swab in COVID-19 testing creates a cancer risk. **This claim is very misleading.** For more information, please see, for example, <https://www.reuters.com/article/factcheck-coronavirus-swabs/fact-check-covid-19-nasal-swabs-sterilised-with-ethylene-oxide-are-safe-to-use-idUSL1N2P30YI>. Yes, the nameless guy in the 80-second video seems very confident when he makes several scary-sounding claims, but he is also wrong – absurdly so, in fact.

August 30, 2021