

Dear Quincy University community:

Happy QU Family Weekend!

Today's message is the ninety-ninth 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. Our last round of surveillance testing, involving 135 unvaccinated students, took place on Wednesday, September 15. **All test results were negative.**
2. **Six students have tested positive for COVID-19 since the semester began.** One of those students took only online courses. Any student with an active infection is quarantined, whether on or off campus. **As of today, there is one active COVID-19 case for a student taking courses on campus, and that student is in quarantine.**
3. One additional student currently is **quarantined for close contact.** As a reminder, students who are quarantined for close contact have not tested positive for COVID-19 and may never have a positive test.
4. In the typical day QU is now testing 10 or more students, faculty, and staff for COVID-19 because those community members report one or more COVID-19 symptoms, such as a headache or congestion. Most test results for such symptomatic testing are negative, but not all.
5. As previously announced, QU's all-community vaccination rate presently is 80%. We will update vaccination rates on occasion throughout this academic year, but the bottom line is that the great majority of QU students, faculty, and staff have been vaccinated.
6. **All unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students, faculty, and staff are receiving separate information about weekly COVID-19 testing,** as now required by the State of Illinois. QU should now have received completed Vaccination Declination Deferral and Request forms from all unvaccinated members of our community. Please direct questions about these forms and State of Illinois requirements to Dr. Tracy.
7. We know that some QU students may be required to participate in **COVID-19 surveillance testing provided through their local employers in Quincy or nearby communities.** We ask all students to report their test results to Dr. Tracy.
8. For the current semester, we are aware of **no COVID-19 cases for QU faculty. Earlier this semester, two full-time staff members and one part-time staff member tested positive for COVID-19. As of today, there are no active cases on campus for faculty or staff.** Anyone with an active infection is quarantined, and no one in off-campus quarantine is permitted to return to campus until that person's quarantine period is complete.
9. Faculty, staff, and business partner employees should continue to **seek out COVID-19 testing** when they have one or more COVID-19 symptoms. Those faculty, staff, and business partner employees seeking to arrange a rapid COVID-19 test on campus should contact Dr. Tracy directly.
10. By far, the best way to reduce our risk for COVID-19 infection and serious illness is vaccination. **Masking, distancing, and good hand hygiene** also can be important ways to reduce risk. All members of the QU community should continue to follow 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.**

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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.

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 well over a year 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)**, no new-case number is available today. There are 20 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 147 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

Worried that you don't hear enough from President McGee? You are welcome to follow him on Twitter at https://twitter.com/Quincy_uMcGee. You will only occasionally be subjected to his thoughts on campus squirrels or Star Trek. Who wouldn't want to see today's charming Tweet showing a 1949 QU graduate in the cafeteria? https://twitter.com/Quincy_uMcGee/status/1439662570579841030

Today is International Talk Like A Pirate Day. We wouldn't make this up, we promise. See <https://www.cnn.com/2021/09/19/us/talk-like-a-pirate-day-2021-trnd/index.html> for details. Arrrgh!

Enjoy your week, Hawks.

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

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