

Dear Quincy University community:

Today's message is the 110th update on Quincy University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Sunday message concerns campus requirements for **mask use, COVID-19 testing, and vaccination**. As background, QU has had very few reports of COVID-19 cases since February.

To reduce COVID-19 infections, all public and private universities in Illinois continue to require **mask use** in certain situations, consistent with previous executive orders issued and periodically renewed by the Governor. However, the current, low levels of COVID-19 infection in Adams County and the surrounding region have provided QU with the opportunity to conduct a **pilot program for mask use**, which will allow the university to gather data about faculty, staff, and student mask use during periods of voluntary mask usage. Data from the pilot program will help us update our campus safety plans in the future.

Effective Monday, April 11, 2022, the following **revised masking policy** will take effect on the Quincy University campus and be effective through Friday, May 13, 2022, or until the university makes further changes to the policy:

- All students, faculty, and staff should **carry masks at all times** while on campus.
- **Close fitting cloth or disposable masks should be used at all times in indoor classrooms, laboratories, and other learning spaces, unless a faculty member gives permission for the optional removal of masks during course or lab meetings. Some learning spaces in the Student Success Center or elsewhere may continue to require masks.** Students are expected to follow all directions from faculty concerning continuing mask use.
- **Mask use in all other campus buildings and spaces continues to be optional.** However, any QU employee may require that anyone entering the employee's campus office must use a mask while in that office.
- Those visiting campus will not be required to wear masks unless they are entering classrooms or labs for which masks are required.
- **All persons who wish to wear masks on campus should be permitted to do so without experiencing any sort of criticism or pressure to take off their masks.** Consistent with our Franciscan values, all members of our community, whether wearing masks or not, must be treated with kindness, dignity, and respect.

As required by the executive orders issued last fall by the Governor, QU will **continue to conduct weekly COVID-19 tests** for faculty, staff, and students who are not yet fully vaccinated. However, **to conserve testing resources and in light of low test positivity rates in Adams County and the surrounding region, testing is currently required only for students, faculty, and staff who are not fully vaccinated and have one or more COVID-19 symptoms**. More information about this temporary change to our testing protocols will be emailed to those members of our community who, according to our records, are not fully vaccinated.

**COVID-19 vaccinations continue to be mandatory for all students, faculty, and staff at public and private universities in the State of Illinois.** Those who are not yet fully vaccinated should consult with Dr. Tracy regarding their options for **deferring the vaccination decision** or for receiving a **medical or religious exemption** from vaccination.

As always, new guidance or requirements for COVID-19 prevention may be announced at any time by the State of Illinois. QU will change its policies whenever required to do so as a result of new executive orders, legislation, or relevant decisions of state courts.

For most Christians, **Holy Week** begins today and ends on Saturday, April 16. For Jews, **Passover**, the Festival of Liberation, begins on April 15 and concludes on April 23. May all those observing these important days experience a deepening of their faiths and enjoy time with family and friends.

Have a great week, Hawks.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian McGee, President

Dr. Christine Tracy, Vice President for Student Development