



June 26, 2020

Dear BUA Community,

We write today with an update on our most recent thinking about the fall. In our [May 28 letter](#), we introduced our Reentry Task Force and its mission. We are committed to keeping all of you informed about our progress throughout the summer. When we can, we will share concrete details; in other cases, we will share the questions we are working through and our best predictions about what next year will look like. We thank you for your understanding and invite you to reach out to us directly with concerns or questions.

Our planning is guided by several core principles:

- Maintaining the health and safety of our community
- Building connection and community, particularly among new students
- Facilitating engaging and rigorous learning

As we develop plans, we are working under the guidance provided by the state regarding distancing and safety best practices. As you may know, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) just yesterday released its guidelines for the reopening of schools. We will monitor all forthcoming guidance and adapt accordingly over the summer as state mandates evolve.

Throughout this process, Boston University has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to BUA, both through the time spent in planning conversations, and through its investments in BUA's technology and health and safety infrastructure. We are confident that, marshaling the resources and expertise of the University, along with the strengths of our excellent faculty and tight-knit BUA community, we will be well-equipped to offer our students the kind of engaging learning and warm community experience that they deserve.

Schedule for the Start of School

Barring some unexpected change, BUA's first day of classes will remain **Wednesday, September 2**. We hope that having this date set will help you with your family with back-to-school planning. As a reminder, Labor Day is Monday, September 7, and, as usual, no BUA or BU classes will be held on the holiday. Plans for BUA orientation are currently in the works, and we will provide an update as soon as we have more details to share.

Transportation

We would like to support your family as you think about transportation for the fall. Recently, you received a short [survey](#) asking you to share your plans and questions about the commute to BUA. For those families who indicate that they are **interested in carpooling**, we will follow up with a list of names and addresses of other families in your area to help you coordinate, and are happy to assist in any way we can. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

On-Campus Learning Model

While we are preparing for several scenarios, our preference is to return to campus for **in-person learning** when we begin school on September 2. Relationships are at the core of who we are. Connections between students and teachers open the door to learning, and connections between students are a centerpiece of the intellectual and social experience of high school. We are so proud of the way the community responded when, by necessity, we made the transition to remote learning, and we worked hard to find ways to maintain these connections at a distance; to some extent, that was made easier because of the fact that we were together from September to March. Particularly in a new school year, where we welcome fifty incoming students and returning students will be in new classes, we recognize the value of in-person learning.

To date, and with the support of our colleagues at BU, we have completed an **analysis of our learning spaces** to determine capacity under distancing guidelines. We are thinking creatively about other spaces we can leverage, how we can reimagine existing spaces, and what furniture configurations will best facilitate our program.

With that analysis in hand, we are developing a number of schedule models designed to offer a robust and engaging program for our students and to create opportunities for connection. There are a number of variables we are working with: class length, start and end times, passing time, lunch periods, academic blocks, cohort structures, BU class schedules, and others. That work is ongoing, and we will engage our faculty as partners in the design. We will update all of you when we have more concrete plans.

We recognize that due to family, health, or other reasons, some students may need to or elect to learn remotely, even when learning shifts back to campus. Our goal is to be flexible. Planning is underway to give students the **ability to connect to in-person classes remotely**. In collaboration with BU's Information Services and Technology team, we will be installing technology in each BUA classroom that will allow students to learn and participate in classes synchronously from home. Over the summer, the BUA faculty will engage in additional professional learning to prepare for this new mode. While we will create a program customized to our BUA community, BU has recently announced its own version of this program for undergraduates, [Learn from Anywhere](#), which will be available to BUA students enrolled in BU courses.

Remote Learning 2.0

Even while we prepare for in-person teaching and learning this fall, we remain cognizant of the possibility of a second surge of COVID-19 infection, mandates from state and local officials, or other factors that would lead us to continue with -- or return to -- remote learning. In planning for this possibility, we will build upon our success with distance learning this spring. Recently, you received a [survey](#) regarding your child's remote learning experience. We plan to incorporate that feedback, along with the feedback we received from the community earlier this spring, as we devise an improved remote learning experience for BUA students; thank you for your participation. One of the key priorities in revising our remote-learning plan is to ensure a **smooth transition from in-person to remote learning** and back again as circumstances dictate.

Health and Safety Initiatives

There are many advantages of being part of a global research university. Right now, we are benefiting from access to world-class health resources, safety expertise, regulatory compliance support, and sourcing and procurement programs for access to resources that might otherwise be difficult to obtain. The BUA Reentry Task Force is in ongoing conversations with BU's Student Health Services and Facilities Management and Operations teams to develop our health and safety protocols for a return to in-person learning. That work is in progress. Based on early guidance from state and local officials and conversations with BU, we are tentatively planning for the following:

- Daily health self-assessments for everyone entering the BUA building, to be completed online or through an app in the morning at home
- A requirement that students, faculty, and staff will wear face coverings
- Frequent hand-washing
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of classroom and common spaces
- Single-person use of the elevator
- Signage throughout the building about capacity and traffic flow

These protocols will be revised and likely expanded as we continue to receive updated guidance from state, local, and University officials.

Ongoing Work

Over the coming weeks, the BUA Reentry Task Force will consider a number of key topics: the calendar for the academic year; the daily schedule; athletics, student activities, and clubs; groupings of students; all-school gatherings; lunch; lockers; building entry, exit, and traffic flow protocols; the frequency of COVID-19 testing for students, faculty, and staff; the technology platform and protocols for student health self-assessment; and others. We intend to have a **plan in place to share with all of you by August 1**, and will create opportunities for discussion and Q&A.

In the meantime, we encourage you to reach out to us at any time with your questions, concerns, and thoughts. And, as promised, we will keep in close touch with you as our planning evolves over the coming weeks. Thank you for your partnership in this process.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Kolovos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'C'.

Mr. Chris Kolovos
Head of School

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'R'.

Dr. Rosemary White
Assistant Head of School for Academics and Student Affairs