



August 21, 2020

Dear BUA community,

I've been working on campus for the past few weeks now, and it feels great to be back at school. My family has been on the more conservative side since March; I haven't ventured out all that much -- particularly with a new baby -- and I wasn't sure exactly how I would feel when I started to get back into the routine. I imagine some of you are in a similar place. Within a few hours of being on campus, my concerns started to fade, replaced by comfort and excitement for the school year. Being here has made it so much easier to imagine what the year will feel like. There's something reassuring about starting the day with the routine of a daily symptom attestation on my phone before coming to school. I've gotten used to wearing a mask for several hours on end (I highly recommend students try that at home to get in the habit), to washing my hands frequently, and to keeping my distance as I chat with teachers and staff members who are coming back to prepare. I can picture students sitting at the new, distanced desks and walking the hallways with one-way directional stickers on the floor. Having just taken my first BU COVID test right across the street in under four minutes, and having received my negative result later that same day, I'm confident that we'll have a clear sense of the situation here at BUA and be able to make more informed decisions than any high school in the country. I'm ready for students to come back. And so is BUA.

Below, you'll find some updates on our reentry planning since our last [reentry communication from August 3](#) and some important action items. Please also consult our comprehensive [Guide to Reentry](#), which we will continue to add to over time. We will be in touch before the start of the school year with more information about testing, daily attestations, community expectations, and other protocols.

### **Choosing Remote or In-Person Learning**

To facilitate our preparation, we ask that you let us know whether your child(ren) plans to learn on campus or from home in the opening weeks. **Please log into [SchoolDoc](#) to complete the Biweekly Learning Plan: Remote or In-Person form by Tuesday, August 25.**

Families will be asked to update this information every two weeks. If you opt for in-person learning and decide to move to remote learning after making your selection, you can do that at any time by contacting the front desk at 617-353-9000 or [academy@bu.edu](mailto:academy@bu.edu). If you select remote learning, we ask you to continue with that option for the two-week period. More details and specific attendance protocols to follow.

### **Student Laptops or Tablets**

In order to minimize paper and material distribution, facilitate safe group work, and allow for students in class to collaborate with students at home, it will be important for **students learning on campus to bring a tablet or laptop computer every day** to access Google docs and, in some cases, Zoom. I regret that we are coming to this decision late in the day. I recognize the challenge this may pose for some of you especially given how close we are to the start of the school year. Devices can be expensive, and

supply chains may delay delivery. We want to help and be as flexible as we can. While a laptop or tablet is ideal, a smartphone will be just fine for classroom use, especially in these early days. BUA's financial aid program provides laptops for all students whose need-based award represents 75% or more of the cost of tuition, but there are others for whom buying a dedicated device represents a significant hardship. If you find yourself in that position, please reach out to [Paige Brewster](#).

### **Face Coverings**

Not all face coverings provide adequate protection, and proper use is critical. The BU Medical Advisory Group has just announced that **gaiters, bandanas, neck fleeces, scarves, and masks with exhalation valves should not be used**, given the potentially increased risk of aerosol transmission associated with these types of facial coverings. Cloth face coverings or disposable masks must fit snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face and cover the nose, mouth, and chin; fasten securely with ties or ear loops; include multiple layers of fabric; allow for breathing without restrictions; and, if reusable, be laundered without damage or change to shape. Please see BU's detailed [guidelines for face coverings](#), which includes a helpful video.

### **Lockers and Mailboxes**

All **student mailboxes will be closed** for the fall semester to prevent crowding and congregating in the main lobby.

To minimize student contact in the hallways, students will **not have access to lockers** at the start of the school year. We ask that students plan and pack their backpacks accordingly. We will reevaluate this policy as we go, and while it represents an inconvenience, we feel that it is the right thing for our community at this moment. Rare exceptions will be considered where there are extenuating circumstances; if you would like to make a specific request for a locker, please email [academy@bu.edu](mailto:academy@bu.edu) with details.

### **Assigned Classroom Seating**

All classroom seating will be preassigned. A student's classroom seat assignment will remain the same for the fall semester.

### **Lunch Ordering**

As we shared earlier, 9th and 10th grade students will eat lunch in the BUA building and should not go to the George Sherman Union (or elsewhere) to purchase lunch. Students may bring a packed lunch from home, and we encourage this option. Refrigerators and microwaves will not be available for student use.

BUA will partner with BU Catering on the Charles so that students can pre-order individually packaged meals to be delivered to the BUA building each day that BUA classes are in session. The lunch ordering system will be shared with families next week. Students will be able to choose from a selection of menu options, which take into account allergies and dietary restrictions and preferences. A group of BUA students has been involved in the menu planning process, ensuring that campus favorites are available. The cost of pre-packaged lunches runs from approximately \$10-15 per meal. All lunch orders will need to be placed by 8:00 p.m. on Thursday for the following week, and purchases will be charged to a

family's Smart Tuition account. Financial aid lunch grants and incidental funds can be applied to the purchase of pre-packaged lunches.

## **Commuting to Campus**

### **Pick-Up and Drop-Off**

We anticipate that more families will choose to drive their children to and from BUA this year. In order to alleviate the heavily-trafficked entrance to the Upper Bridge Lot adjacent to the BUA building, we have worked with BU to open **three new active pick-up and drop-off locations**:

- Lower Bridge Lot (accessed from University Road by Storrow Drive, right behind the BUA building)
- Law School North Entrance (accessed from Bay State Road, behind the GSU)
- Essex Street Garage & Lot (entrance at 148 Essex Street, Brookline, diagonally across the street from BUA)

You will find a map of these locations on the BUA Reentry Guide. Families may choose any of these locations, all of which are a short walk to the BUA building; depending on where you are coming from, some may be more convenient than others. **BUA strongly discourages families from using the Upper Bridge Lot** for pick up and drop off. BU Parking & Transportation Services has installed a new gate and access system at the entrance to the lot, which may cause significant back-up and congestion in the driveway. We hope that the three alternatives will work well for our community and thank you for your flexibility.

### **Student Drivers**

BUA students who do not live in close proximity to campus are eligible to **purchase a [Blue Student Parking Permit](#)**. The semester-long pass will enable access to a range of on-campus lots, including the Essex Street Garage & Lot (diagonally across the street from the BUA building). BUA students should not purchase permits through Student Link; a [BUA-specific application form](#) should be submitted directly to BU Parking & Transportation Services for processing. All charges will be processed through Smart Tuition.

### **Commuting Webinar**

All BUA parents and guardians are invited to a Commuting Webinar hosted by the BUA Parent Network on **Sunday, August 30 from 8:00-8:45 p.m** (click [here](#) to join; RSVPs are not required). Parents/guardians of "veteran" BUA commuters will share various commuting options, tips, and tricks, and will answer any questions. Director of Operations Paige Brewster will join the webinar to share information about changes to the student MBTA pass program, the new pick-up/drop-off locations, and bike commuting options. The webinar will be recorded for those unable to attend.

### **Student Schedules**

Families were notified this past Monday that student schedules are available on the [family portal](#). The BUA master schedule is available [here](#). As a reminder, the first day of BUA classes is **Wednesday, September 2**; this will be a **remote school day for all BUA classes**, as will all Wednesdays. Questions or concerns about scheduling should be directed to [Dr. Rosemary White](#).

## Remote Teachers

We care deeply for our teachers and have worked hard to provide options that accommodate their needs for the upcoming year. This fall, the following faculty members will be teaching from home via Zoom, but they will be streaming into a physical classroom and interacting with students who will be in the BUA building: Jim Davis, Dan Ford, Bill Gardiner, Gordon Harvey, and Rich Horn. If your child is registered for a class with one of these teachers, our expectation is that the student will go to the assigned classroom with the other students in that class. Another teacher will be on hand to set up the technology and make sure that the students in the room and the teacher (who will be home) can see and hear one another. In most cases, the teacher's face will be projected on screen, and cameras and microphones will be set up so that everyone can interact as they would were the teacher in person at BUA. We are trying to replicate, as much as possible, the feel of a typical BUA class.

As with all of our classes this year, students may choose to join these sections remotely through Zoom if they are learning from home that day/week. But the paradigm is for these five teachers to teach from home and students to learn mainly in the physical classroom.

We are grateful to these five teachers for their flexibility and creativity, and confident in their ability to forge personal connections and offer our students the rigorous, engaging learning BUA is known for.

## Athletics & Physical Education

We are excited to be able to provide a number of optional opportunities for students to stay physically active, develop a team spirit, and have some fun along the way. This fall, BUA will offer four sports in the afternoon -- cross country, soccer, tennis, and disc golf -- in ways that allow for appropriate distancing. There will not be interscholastic competitions.

We are also reimagining our PE program, which will not be required this year. Instead, we are preparing to offer group Zoom classes for students at home, likely in the evenings. These may include yoga, hip hop dance, and karate.

We will reach out to students shortly to gauge interest in these sports and PE activities.

## New Student Orientation

BUA's New Student Orientation will take place remotely, with an optional in-person component on the afternoon of Thursday, August 27. Virtual New Student Orientation will take place via Zoom from **8:15-11:50 a.m. each morning from Tuesday, August 25 to Thursday, August 27**. Zoom links for the various orientation events will be emailed in the coming days. New Parent Orientation will be held remotely on **Monday, August 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

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These days, it's easy to focus on everything that's different. And so much has changed. But all of the changes -- all the new protocols and rules -- are designed to get us back to those things that should never change. BUA will always be a place where kind, curious, capable kids are challenged; where they

discover passions and test their independence; where they can come together in community; and where they connect with teachers who know and love them. It is a privilege to partner with all of you to make that possible this fall.

Best,

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

Chris Kolovos  
Head of School