



August 27, 2020

Dear BUA Community,

It has been over six months since we have been able to be together as a community -- and that is far too long. I am delighted that in just one short week we will welcome students back to school and back into the BUA building. It's time. I am not surprised to learn that over 80% of our students will be learning on campus; we are grateful for your confidence and understand your desire for our community to come together.

We have an extraordinary opportunity. Schools in our area and around the country are grappling with reentry plans, and many will be starting remotely. Leveraging the resources of Boston University -- including regular asymptomatic testing for all students, faculty, and staff -- we are in the rare position to be able to offer four days of in-person learning, with one remote day, and remote access for any student who needs to learn from home. Many eyes will be watching what we do, eager for a model of effective education in COVID-19 times.

To make this work, we all need to do our part. Opening school is one thing; the careful preparation of our facility, development of new protocols, and extraordinary support from BU make the first days possible. Staying open requires a collective effort. It will require that students learning on campus stick to consistent and correct mask usage; follow physical distancing protocols; wash or sanitize hands frequently and carefully; complete the daily health attestations; keep up with COVID testing; and stay home (and learn remotely) when they have symptoms or whenever the morning attestation says so. It will require students to help one another -- letting a classmate whose mask slips know, correcting a friend who comes too close, reminding one another to wash hands frequently, and making sure friends stay home when needed. It will also require that families reinforce these habits at home. From my first days at BUA, I've been struck by how thoughtful and independent our students are. If any school can do this, we can.

Below, you will find some updates focused on several of the time-sensitive health-related reentry pieces and an invitation to a panel discussion with parent experts on Monday evening. As always, please refer to the [BUA Guide to Reentry](#) for more details, or reach out to us at [academy@bu.edu](mailto:academy@bu.edu).

### **Family Health Commitments and Expectations**

All members of the BUA school community have a shared responsibility to maintain a safe and healthy campus environment. Each family is asked to **review and sign the COVID-19 BUA Family Health Commitments and Expectations form in [SchoolDoc](#) by September 2**. A separate form is required for each student enrolled, regardless of whether that student will attend class on campus or remotely. Students will sign a similar agreement at the start of the school year.

## Participation in the BU Screening and Testing Program

All BUA students learning on campus must participate in the University's COVID-19 screening and testing program. Parents and guardians should **complete the BU Testing Authorization form in [SchoolDoc](#) by September 2**. We ask that parents complete this form whether their child intends to attend class on campus or remotely.

The University's prevention and testing measures are covered in great detail on the [Healthway website](#). Among other resources, you'll find helpful videos on how to take the test and how to properly wear a face covering as well as a link to the Patient Connect portal where students can access the daily health screening survey, schedule testing appointments, and view test results. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the information on the Healthway site prior to the start of the school year.

## Scheduling Testing

Students should schedule their first test upon their return to campus. COVID testing is not required prior to the start of school; however, appointments can be made between now and the first day of in-person classes on September 3.

Testing is available 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, at four locations across campus; the closest testing site to BUA is at 808 Commonwealth Ave., diagonally across the street from our building. **A short video on how to complete on-campus testing is [here](#).**

Appointments take less than 10 minutes. Students will need to bring their BU ID with them to the testing site along with the QR appointment barcode that is generated when the appointment is booked. The QR code can be printed out or accessed from the student's phone (either in the patient portal or the appointment confirmation email). They will also be asked to show confirmation that they completed their daily attestation and have been cleared to come to campus that day -- a "green badge" (see below for more on daily attestations). Parents and guardians will not be permitted to accompany their child into the testing site. In the opening weeks of school, BUA staff will be on hand to facilitate student visits to the testing site.

## Instructions for Scheduling a Test

1. Log into [Patient Connect](#) (a student's Kerberos credentials are required)
2. Click on 'Schedule an Appointment'
3. Select 'COVID-19 Testing'
4. Review 'COVID-19 Health Commitments and Expectations'
5. Review Consent to Testing
6. Indicate if you are symptomatic or asymptomatic
7. Confirm your contact information
8. Select a testing location (closest site to BUA is 808 Gallery)
9. Select an appointment time
10. Confirm by clicking 'Schedule'
11. View your confirmation information and QR code needed to enter testing

Test collection will be required every four days for students who are enrolled in University classes; for students in BUA classes only, the testing frequency will be every seven days. Students will receive email notifications when test results are available in addition to reminders about upcoming appointments and scheduling subsequent tests. Results are generally reported within 24 hours and will be made available through the Patient Connect portal. Parents will be notified directly in the event of a positive test result.

BU has posted [a video tutorial and step-by-step guide](#) to accessing and navigating Student Patient Connect.

### **Daily Symptom Screening Attestation**

All students who come to campus are required to complete a daily health screening survey. Students will receive an automated email every morning directing them to complete the form, or they can log into [Patient Connect](#) to access the questionnaire. Individuals who report symptoms or otherwise answer yes to one of the questions are advised to stay home and wait for a call from a member of the BU Healthway staff, who will evaluate their status, recommend a course of action, and provide further instruction regarding testing.

We ask that any student who will be on campus between now and the first day of classes complete a daily attestation before they leave home.

This year, more than any other year, it is critical that students stay home if they have symptoms -- even mild ones. In past years, students may have responded to pressure not to miss classes by ignoring a cold. This year, the stakes are obviously much higher. And with robust technology setups in each classroom, we hope we've made it even easier to follow the rules.

### **Testing Dashboard**

BU has begun its on-campus asymptomatic testing and has posted a testing data [dashboard](#) with a summary of results, which will be updated regularly. At the time of this letter, BU has completed 18,000 tests, with a positive test rate of 0.17%.

### **Notification in the Event of a Positive Case**

In the event that a student receives a positive test result, the parent of that student will be notified, and we will follow the protocols spelled out on the [BUA Guide to Reentry](#) (see the Response Protocols section).

In addition to taking these steps, BUA will notify the community if a BUA student or employee tests positive for COVID-19. In order to maintain the confidentiality of all members of the community and follow the directives of the University and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), the school is unable to provide details about the individual's identity, including their name or class schedule. Contact tracers from the University along with those from the Massachusetts Community Tracing Collaborative or the local board of health from the community in which the infected individual resides will reach out to those who are deemed to be close contacts.

### **Flu Shot Requirement**

[Recent guidance](#) from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health dictates that **all children over six months of age must receive an influenza vaccine (flu shot) by December 31, 2020.** This mandate includes both students returning to campus in person and those who will learn remotely. We appreciate your timely compliance with this guidance and encourage you to schedule your child's flu shot at your earliest convenience.

## Nurse

Last year was the first year BUA had a nurse dedicated to our school, for one hour per day. Dawn Bregoli, a registered nurse from BU Student Health Services, will be available to BUA on the same schedule this year, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., on days when BUA will hold in-person classes (M, T, Th, F). Due to the extraordinary demands on BU health services this fall, Dawn will, for the time being, be available remotely to BUA students during this hour. Students and parents can contact her at any time at [BUANurse@bu.edu](mailto:BUANurse@bu.edu). COVID-specific issues or questions should be directed to the Healthway Line at 617-353-0550.

## BUA Parent Expert Panel

We are grateful to have three BUA parent experts serving as part of our health and safety advisory group. The BUA Parents Network (BUAPN) will host **A Conversation about COVID-19 on Monday, August 31 from 7:30-9:00 p.m.**, focusing on what parents can do to help their children and featuring Dr. Mark Poznansky P'20, P'24, director of the Vaccine and Immunotherapy Center at Massachusetts General Hospital; Dr. Nidhi Lal P'23, clinical associate professor of family medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine; and Dr. John Quackenbush P'24, chair of the department of biostatistics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. All BUA parents and guardians are invited to [join at this link](#); no RSVP required.

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In 1940, Eleanor Roosevelt addressed the Democratic National Convention, remarking, "[w]e cannot tell from day to day what may come. This is no ordinary time. No time for weighing anything, except what we can best do for the country as a whole. And that rests, that responsibility on each and every one of us as individuals." Now, in our own extraordinary time, where we are unsure of what the future will bring, we again turn to one another and rely on our individual commitment to our collective well being. It is a privilege to partner with all of you in our common mission to create the best possible experience for our students.

Best,



Chris Kolovos  
Head of School