



Dear BUA students and families,

I'm pleased to report that since I wrote to you last Friday, there have only been two positive student COVID tests and that there have been **no positive tests since Sunday**. While causation is hard to demonstrate, there are strong indications that the move back to a mask mandate has played a significant role in the decline in cases. This is a remarkable turnaround from just a few weeks ago, and I am incredibly grateful to all our students for bearing with the return of the mask mandate and keeping up with the testing cadence. As disappointing as it is that we still find ourselves needing these precautions, it is inspiring to see what this community can do.

Unfortunately, rates in the broader community remain high. The numbers on the [BU COVID Dashboard](#) are at the same levels as they were during the winter Omicron wave, and the [data from Boston-area wastewater](#) stubbornly lingers in a higher range.

Given our experience in the past month and the external trends, we have decided to keep the mask mandate in place, temporarily. There is a premium on making sure students do not miss classes and that teachers are here in person to work with their students as we approach the end of the school year – with final projects, review sessions, and exams. The other concern is for those students and staff members with loved ones at home who are vulnerable. I have heard from several members of our community in this position in recent weeks expressing their gratitude for this community's sacrifice.

That said, we will continue to be flexible – deviating from the mask policy on a case-by-case basis. The end-of-year moments and senior celebrations are very much on our minds, and we hope that the sacrifices we make now will make it possible for those events to be as joyful, carefree, and normal as we can make them. We are also looking for the right opportunity to return to a mask-optional policy when community conditions allow.

Because positive test rates at BUA have come down, we will again announce any positive tests in the moment, rather than in a weekly roundup. As always, please reach out with any questions at academy@bu.edu, and thank you for your continued patience and partnership.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Christopher Kolovos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Kolovos
Head of School