



Dear BUA students and families,

I hope this note finds you well. Since I last wrote to you [earlier this month](#), there has been a slow but steady trickle of positive student COVID tests – roughly one per day. This tracks with what we are seeing more broadly at BU and in the Boston area, where rates remain stubbornly high. And while symptoms are generally mild to moderate, we are unfortunately seeing more symptomatic cases than we were earlier in the pandemic. I'm writing to share a few updates designed to keep our students and teachers healthy and in school during this important time of year, while also preserving the joy of our year-end celebrations, particularly for our seniors and their families.

Required At-Home Testing after May 23

Beginning on Tuesday, May 24, BU will no longer offer asymptomatic testing. That date makes sense for the broader University, whose classes and activities wrap up on May 23, but works less well for most of BUA, since our school year extends into early June.

For the last several weeks of school, we ask that **every BUA student, faculty, and staff member take an at-home antigen test on the next three Tuesdays:**

- May 24
- May 31
- June 7

Graduated seniors who will not be coming to campus and students, faculty, or staff members who have tested positive within 90 days of these dates are exempt from this testing requirement.

Our hope is that many of our families have tests at home or are able to acquire them in the coming days and weeks. If buying tests presents a hardship for your family, please complete [this form](#) by Friday, May 20. Free at-home tests are available through this [government website](#), but the timeline for shipment is not yet clear. We have a limited number of tests available for pickup at BUA and will follow up with those families who complete the form about a plan for distribution. We realize that this is an imperfect system and that there is a cost associated with this unusual step. We appreciate your partnership and stand ready to help.

BU will retain the capacity for PCR-based symptomatic testing and close-contact testing after May 23. Students will be able to pick up COVID test kits at Student Health Services (SHS), 881 Commonwealth Avenue, activate that test kit through the same portal they use to schedule tests now, and drop those specimens off at SHS. We will share more details in the coming days with you and the students, and encourage our community to use this resource liberally.

Retaining the Mask Mandate

Given our experience in the past month and the external trends, we have decided to keep the mask mandate in place through the end of the school year. There is a premium on making sure students do not miss classes and that teachers are here in person to work with their students. But we will be flexible when it comes to end-of-year celebrations. For example, while masks will be required for those attending Commencement, our graduating seniors will have the option of

not wearing masks. We will take a mask-optional approach to prom and several other culminating events as well, and have required testing before students participate.

There are no perfect solutions, only compromises. I feel lucky to be working with a world-class group of medical and public health advisors in making these decisions. We hope that we are striking a good balance and remain tremendously grateful for all the sacrifices this community has made in the past several years.

As always, please reach out with any questions at academy@bu.edu, and thank you.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Kolovos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" and last name "Kolovos" clearly legible.

Chris Kolovos
Head of School