



Dear BUA students and families,

It is sobering that we are set to begin our fourth school year where COVID plays a role in the lives of our students. I am fiercely proud of the way that this community has responded since March 2020: adapting to new and shifting protocols without complaint; sacrificing for the good of the whole and the most vulnerable; and supporting one another at every turn. I am also proud that we have lost no school days to this crisis. The strength, flexibility, generosity, and kindness of this community has never been so evident and important. Thank you to the students, parents, faculty, and staff who have traveled this road together.

This year promises a return to normalcy that we have not experienced in some time and that our students deserve. Students will engage in all of our traditions, like Lock-In and Camp Burgess. They will have access to our full range of athletic and extracurricular programming. They are much more likely to see one another smile and laugh as we move to a mask-optional stance. While COVID is still very much with us, this is not the spring of 2020 or even the fall of 2021. High levels of vaccination, broad access to testing, availability of medical treatment for those who are infected, and public awareness have all led to a situation where health outcomes for those who contract the virus are generally mild, particularly in this age group. At the same time, we have to respect that we each have different levels of comfort and keep in mind those in or connected to our community who are particularly vulnerable – unvaccinated younger children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems.

The protocols we have adopted for this year are designed to balance these priorities and give our students the high school experience we all want for them. We have developed these guidelines with our parent medical advisors, in consultation with our partners at BUA, and in line with public health guidelines from the CDC and state authorities. Below are the key points, with many more details available on [BUA's COVID Protocols](#) page. Please reach out to our Director of Operations and Finance, Derek Dettorre (dettorre@bu.edu), with any questions.

Face Coverings

Masks will be optional for all students, faculty, and staff in all BUA spaces – including classrooms, common areas, school meetings, indoor athletics, and rehearsals – and in most BU spaces. We will continue to foster an environment where students and adults feel comfortable wearing masks if they choose to. We ask all students to bring masks with them each day for the time being, whether they wear them or not; there may be a teacher who requests that students wear masks in certain circumstances, and there are some BU spaces (BU transportation, health facilities) where masks are still required.

BUA will maintain a supply of extra masks at the front desk should they be needed.

Vaccination and Boosters

BUA requires that all students ages 12+ receive a **COVID-19 vaccination and single booster** prior to the start of the 2022-2023 academic year. Medical and religious exemptions to this policy will be accommodated. Faculty, staff, and visitors are subject to the same requirement. When additional boosters become available for these cohorts, BUA may update its guidance accordingly. There is information about uploading proof of vaccination on the [BUA COVID Protocols](#) page.

Individuals Who Test Positive

If an individual tests positive for COVID, they should contact Derek Dettorre (dettorre@bu.edu) and stay home and **isolate for a minimum of 5 days** from the onset of symptoms or from the date of that positive test, if they do not have symptoms. They may return to campus on or after day 6 if they are symptom-free or if symptoms are resolving, and must wear a well-fitting mask through day 10. Individuals who test positive for COVID do not need a negative rapid antigen test in order to return to campus.

What to Do If Symptomatic

The most important protective measure for our community is staying home when symptomatic. If a student is experiencing symptoms when away from school, we ask that the student stay home and that the family contact the front desk to report the absence by 8:00 a.m. by calling 617-353-9000 or emailing academy@bu.edu. If the student feels well enough to come to school, the student must take an antigen test at home and only return to school after receiving a negative test result. They should also schedule a COVID test at the BU symptomatic testing center first thing when they arrive back to campus and wear a mask while symptomatic.

Students experiencing symptoms at school should check in with the front desk staff, who will arrange for a conversation with a nurse from BU Student Health Services. The nurse may recommend that the student take a COVID test at BU's testing center and go home, pending the result of that test.

Testing at BU

BU is no longer offering asymptomatic screening testing, but **symptomatic and close contact PCR testing is available at BU**. All PCR testing for students and employees is located at the Health Services Annex, located in the rear of Agganis Arena at 925 Commonwealth Avenue. Please refer to this [short video](#) demonstrating the process.

Close Contacts

Close contacts are not required to quarantine. Individuals exposed to COVID should take a PCR COVID test at BU as soon as they learn they are a close contact, regardless of whether they are experiencing symptoms. Close contacts should mask indoors for 10 days following exposure and test again on day 6 after exposure. BU and BUA will not be conducting contact tracing.

Notification of Positive Cases

BUA will no longer inform the broader community of individual positive student, faculty, or staff cases, but we will be in touch should we identify a large number of cases requiring a change in our approach.

No Remote Learning

Students who are at home due to infection and/or illness will no longer have the option to join classes by Zoom. Instead, like for any other absence, students should contact their teachers about the class work they have missed. Teachers are flexible and eager to support students through absences.

We will approach this year with hope, humility, and flexibility, as we have [done from the start](#). We will follow and adapt to the data; if conditions change, so will our protocols. We will do everything we can to give our students the joyful experience they deserve. And we will continue to leverage the great strength that has carried us through these last 29 months: our respect and love for one another.

As always, please reach out with any questions, and thank you.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Kolovos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kolovos".

Chris Kolovos
Head of School