

Student: I have completed the summer survey but I wasn't given an indication of what my Category status is. Will our Category number be communicated to us so we know what we should do?

Student: Isn't it communicated to us via the email reminders to sign up for testing appointments?

Student: are we allowed to go for testing more frequently than once a week?

Student: So which option do we choose on the LfA questions on Student Link to be made a Category 3?

Student: I am only planning to come to campus no more than once a week. I recently changed my LfA status on the Student Link. I came to campus to get tested last week, and then made an appointment for another test this week. Is it necessary for me at this point to get tested this week, or should I reschedule for the next time I plan to come to campus?

Student: Why are in-person faculty, who by talking in class present much greater transmission opportunity to all in-person students only being tested once per week? Your model's "networks" do not seem to account for classroom transmission links (instructors are hub nodes with greater number of connections).

Student: So will we be told, or not be told? So it's up to us to determine?

Student: There are only three options. What if graduate student live in BU owned property that is not dorm style. Which category should the student be?

Student: I second this question above: So which option do we choose on the LfA questions on Student Link to be made a Category 3? Neither Option 2 nor 3 on Student Link Qs capture my situation...

Student: RE the Category numbers, on the SHS portal I'm displayed as "NA" in the status and I'm not sure what that means regarding the Category numbers. I don't want to not fulfill safety requirements but I also have an uncertain schedule.

Student: I currently live on campus and the daily check in changes my testing date frequently, which makes it hard to schedule ahead. Why does my deadline change day-to-day?

Student: if my classes are remote but I still need to go to the lab couple times a month, should I still be tested each week?

Student: ^^ Same question! Could you clarify which answers on the LfA survey correspond with which categories/testing frequency? It's unclear which I should select for remote classes but

on-campus for research on a limited/as needed basis. What does "regularly" mean and is research considered an "academic commitment"?

Student: So we just have to guess what we've been assigned? And hope we're right?

Student: Why there cannot be a indicator of category on student link?

Student: So if I am a "Category 3" I can take one test at the beginning of the semester and then access the library infrequently for the rest of the semester?

Student: So we don't come to campus JUST to get tested?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:
Do not come to campus JUST to get tested!

Student: Yes, please tell us the logic between the survey answers and the categories

Student: OK. Thank you for clarifying

Student: Thank you, Sarah. That would be useful!

Student: ^thanks

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:
Student - good suggestion, this should clear up a lot. We can add it

Student: Thank you so much, Sarah. That information would be really helpful.

Student: Will there be an option to book tests more than 4 days in advance? (currently I test on Monday and can't book until Thursday for the following week)

Student: So if we are infrequently coming to campus, do we switch out status, and then schedule a test they day we plan to come to campus? Since we shouldn't come to campus just to get a test?

Student: But I would need to come just to get the test if I need to go to the library a couple days later right? Like I won't get a green badge until it comes back negative right? I can't take the test and then go over to the library, right?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:
I came back today. I took my test this AM. I can now go to campus, do not have to wait for the results

Student: how long does it take to get the results of the test?

Student: 24 hr

Student: thanks

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

You can get the test same day.

Student: ^thank you for clarifying this!

Student: Seems dangerous that you don't have to be confirmed negative to access campus resources

Student: can we book a recurring testing date for those of us who have consistent schedules so we don't have to continually schedule this each week?

Student: I have this same question, the problem is that it seems to defeat the purpose of testing in order to come to campus if we test on the day we come to campus but don't have the results until we don't need to come to campus anymore

Student: Thanks. Although that seems contradictory to keeping sick people off campus....

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

It is better to think of turn around time as "next day" than 24 hours, since the lab is closed from 10pm-7am and some results will be less than 24 hours and others will be next day

Student: Yes. Agree

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

yes I see that point, but testing is important no matter what - since we do not know when people get infected who are positive, it is the best possible info we can get

Student: I went to the healthway website which takes me to PatientConnect. There my badge shows "quarantine status and lab test is overdue". I have not stepped out of Boston in the last 8 months. Not sure how is it overdue? How often are these badges updated?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

Modeling shows us to test as much as we can and if that is on the same day you come in and you get the results next day that is huge in terms of stopping spread
@student, you have to fill out your symptom attestation

Student: ^It took almost 72 hours for me to get my test results back.

Student: Perhaps it's better to expand Categories 3 & 4 to align with the kind of intermittent campus interaction that *graduate* students have as well as residency status

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

And schedule a test

Student: I live off-campus but this is still my community and I need to access resources on campus occasionally

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@Student, yes, we have 1000's of tests a day, and a few have gotten hung up in the system. WE are working on this

Student: ^Thank you for all of your hard work on this!

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

If you ever are looking for a result that is later than 36 hours, send me your U#, and I can get the lab started tracking it down

Student: What specific criteria or threshold values would push the decision to make all classes remote?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

This should be happening less and less as the IT updates

Student: @Catherine Thank you!

Student: @Catherine - thanks. I completed the survey. That did not change the badge. Quarantine is still overdue.

Student: What are BU's criteria to continue (or stop) in person meetings in the classroom and go fully remote? Will it be the number of cases, % positive rate, or something else? I understand this will be managed on an adaptive ongoing basis, but what type of thresholds is BU using as benchmarks?

Student: For international students, would the decisions of being remote or in person (that can change along the semester) would be communicated to the ISSO each time they change?

Student: Where can we report misuse of facilities/not following guidelines (i.e. people not wearing masks, not social distancing, having gatherings/meetings, occupancy limits exceeded etc)?

Student: Also a question for Scott, that includes out of network hospitals? Our "preferred" hospital is BMC. For many of us who don't have cars, we would have to take public transit or

expose an Uber/Lyft driver. Confirming that we have permission to go to the nearest hospital without penalty?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student, report this to your chair or dean

If they are UGs you can report to Kenn Elmore's office

Student: And if they're faculty/staff?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

Same chair or dean

Student: Does the Telehealth 100% coverage (thru Sept 30) apply to out-of-network providers as well?

Student: Thanks

Student: So that means that treatment for any long-term complications from COVID, blood clotting, PTSD from long-term ICU stays, lung damage, speech/physical therapy etc counts as "outpatient" and is not covered?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student, also the Department directors can take these reports

Student: I also have quarantine overdue on my badge, even though my quarantine ended in march. Not sure how to change that

Student: Are we covered if we are taking COVID-19 tests out-of-state to meet MA state travel restriction requirements?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student please fill out your daily attestation @student schedule a test, the badge should change

Student: Thank you Scott

Student: @Catherine, do we fill out the daily attestation every day, regardless if we are planning to come to campus?

Student: @Catherine, thank you! I did schedule a test this Thursday, so hopefully this will be resolved.

Student: what is the difference between 'recovered' & 'confirmed non-contagious' on the BU covid data dashboard? The glossary includes 'confirmed non-contagious' but doesn't include 'recovered'

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student- that would be ideal - but make sure you do it on the day you are coming in

Student: what is the difference between 'recovered' & 'confirmed non-contagious' on the BU covid data dashboard? The glossary includes 'confirmed non-contagious' but doesn't include 'recovered'

Student: What qualifies as a "large number" of cases?

Student: Is there a concrete number of positives that push the decision?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student non=contagious means that someone was sick before they came to BU and are not longer contagious,

Student: Are you going to make this information public? Currently the quarantine/isolation room occupancy is not on the public dashboard?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

Recovered means they got sick here, were positive, then recovered and left isolation

Student: What is a lot? Which percentage of on campus students?

Student: When will the thresholds be decided and will this info be made public?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

Expect non-contagious to go down as people remain resident on campus once they arrive

Student: I assume this would be daily positive cases? Not a weekly/month average? Given that you're testing people multiple times a week and that can skew the numbers?

Student: Not a question, but a request. Per Scott's response, could you update the language on the health services covid page (<https://www.bu.edu/shs/coronavirus/>) which says "Inpatient treatment for COVID-19 related hospitalization will also be covered at 100% with no copays, deductibles or coinsurance. Network providers should be utilized when available for care in the United States. You can log onto Aetna Student Health's Boston University homepage and select the "Find a doctor, hospital or pharmacy" option to search for in-network providers for the best coverage anywhere in the United States." It appears to suggest that students should travel to an in-network hospital to avoid penalties.

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

Oh yeah daily positive ! IT is a slope we care about less about the absolute #s

Student: @Catherine, thank you for the answer!

Student: Is BU working with the city/state government to decide when it is appropriate to close campus? The decision to stay open affects the greater community

Student: Where can we find information about false negative rates for the specific test BU does?

Student: Reiterating: I think BU needs to flesh out differences in Categories 3 and 4 to account for ways that *graduate* students are interacting with campus (aka intermittently, once every two weeks etc)

Student: **It's concerning to me that classes begin next week but thresholds still haven't been decided

Student: Monthly testing is an easy way around this

Student: ^^Student's question also relates to the importance of frequency of graduate student testing for grad students who are not "on campus", as a lot of grad students live in undergraduate-heavy areas and frequent grocery stores, pharmacies etc which also serve the larger community, how are these interactions being considered?

Student: To what extent was undergraduate partying included in the modeling?

Student: What is happening to undergrads living off-campus but close to BU and parties? Living in the areas of Gardner/Ashford/Pratt, close to BU there has definitely been an uptick in traffic and I assume that this will keep happening as school resumes

Student: Many of us have roommates/housemates. Some of whom may need to be taking public transportation daily or essential workers. Do we then change our own categories?

Student: So the "one test at the beginning of the semester" for Category 3 is really "a test any day you actually come to campus"?

Student: what is BU's capacity for isolations for positive tests? what happens if the capacity is reached?

Student: Are undergraduates who are attending parties/social events on the weekend being encouraged to get tested on tuesday/wednesday, rather than Monday? I have heard that the virus sometimes doesn't show up for 48+ hours (please correct me if I am wrong)

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student - no they must schedule two tests a week. We cannot police when they take it

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

We can isolate high 100's of people

From Tracy Schroeder to Everyone:

@student, that would be one test on the first day you come back to campus

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

We can quarantine the same #

Student: Are there plans to clean classroom spaces between classes and if so, who is responsible for that?

Student: @Catherine got it. Thank you!

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student all undergrads getting tested twice a week. No matter what unless totally LfA

@student, yes, facilities is doing that

Student: @Catherine Thank you!

Student: @Scott - should Telehealth visits from this summer be covered at 100% if the visits were with an out-of-network provider?

Student: @scott I got a bill from Aetna for a telehealth visit who should I talk to about that it was from a BMC provider

Student: This came up last week—have you changed the contact tracing policy to inform TFs if a student in their class is positive? As of last time, the answer was no.

Student: can off campus residence students isolate with BU away from our roommates if we test positive?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student, I don't know -but. I dont think so if you do not have a housing contract

People with housing contracts can move into and out of quarantine/isolation housing

Student: does that also apply to graduate students? undergrads aren't the only ones who will be attending large gatherings

Student: ^^Yes I am also very concerned with student's question, I am in a very small space with a shared bathroom and 3 housemates, and I will not be able to properly self-isolate if I am infected

Student: seems irresponsible for community spread within boston not to help off campus students isolate

Student: Same concern as student

From Daniel Kleinman to Everyone:

@student—to clarify: grad students in BU apartments will likely quarantine and isolate in their own apartments. Off campus students will quarantine and isolate in their own apartments.

Student: nearly impossible for us to isolate with sharing a bathroom & kitchen off campus

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student - if you test positive, your whole household must quarantine. They will be considered close contacts

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

If they are @bu they will get tested at BU symptomatic site and monitored

Student: ok that makes sense unless they test negative & i'm positive

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

If they are not, they will be instructed to get tested ASAP and quarantine

Student: If a TF tests positive, all of the students they've met with or "lectured" to should be considered close contacts

Student: What about in a lab setting where the positive student is using communal equipment, reagents, etc? Would a TF still not be notified?

Student: Thank you, but I still would want to know if a student of mine gets sick, even if it is a discussion,

Student: Will the cleaning staff who cleans classrooms of positive student be provided with PPE and testing?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student you cannot know that bc it is personal health info

From Tracy Schroeder to Everyone:

@student only if that TF was closer than 6 feet with each of those students for more than 15 minutes

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:
Unless you are a close contact

Student: You can tell me without identifying the person by name

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:
@student, yes, but the name is not the only thing considered PHI

Student: How do we find information about false negative rates of the BU test. I have seen numbers as high as 30% for nasal swabs

Student: It does not violate medical privacy to say "a student in your wednesday section is sick"

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:
@student, actually it does. If that person does not show up at the next class and you can determine who they are. This is state law - no easy way around it. The group is considered too small

Student: ^Re student/Catherine, not sure why this is any different than telling someone the person identifies as a contact? Why can't you tell TF that they've been in contact with a sick person but you can tell others?

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:
This has been litigated - but we will give all close contacts this info

Student: Will the facilities staff be provided with testing and PPE?

From Tracy Schroeder to Everyone:
@student, yes

Student: @tracy Thanks!

Student: I have a clarification question about classroom cleaning... Earlier it was asked if the classrooms were going to be cleaned between classes and who was responsible. The answer was that they were and that it was the facilities staff that was in charge... But from what was just said it seems like that is not the case... it seems like high contact areas are cleaned regularly... So are classrooms cleaned between classes or not? I am now confused.

Student: I've seen that the basement classrooms on Cummington Mall are being used. There's no windows down there—can you clarify why such classrooms are being assigned?

From Tracy Schroeder to Everyone:

@student, facilities will be frequently cleaning all community spaces, including classrooms. They may not be able to clean between every class session in every room. But there will be materials for cleaning one's own area at the start of each session as well.

Student: I'm still not satisfied with the contact tracing answer. I don't understand why it does not violate medical privacy to call and notify people identified as a close contact, but it does violate it to contact their TF.

Student: @Tracy, ok, thank you

From Tracy Schroeder to Everyone:

@student, air filtration systems are being added to all rooms that provide a number of air changes that exceed the latest health standards. Rooms of the right size to allow de-densified classes are all being used, so that may be why some of those rooms are needed.

Student: Will the BU dashboard start to use the number of individuals tested when calculating the percentage of positive cases? Because the testing paradigm at BU results in far more tests than there are individuals tested, it is important to calculate percent positive tests from the population being tested, because the percentage will appear much lower if you look at the total tests (we know that a number of tests are from the same individual and over time that same individual will be represented more and more).

Student: What is that CPT modifier? My provider thought she was using it, but claims have been rejected

Student: Why is this different from calling a close contact

Student: @Scott: Thank you. What exactly is that CPT modifier? My provider thought she was using it, but claims have been rejected. I've called Aetna many times, and they are unable to be specific about what on the bill needs to change!

Student: What about a lab course that meets once a week? I will TF a positive student then go to my own classes, my own research lab, and not notice for a week that someone could be positive

From Scott to Everyone:

modifiers GT or 95 are the appropriate modifiers for synchronous telemedicine service

Student: Thank you!

Student: If students test positive, they will be absent from class anyway for 14+ days, so we will then be assuming they are out because of COVID, in that case do we just try and schedule a test as soon as possible under that assumption? That seems messy

Student: Will PPE (such as masks) be provided to TFs who are the instructor in the classroom? And are there guidances around which masks are adequate for the classroom if we are to have our own masks since there is some evidence that some face coverings are not as good as others?

Student: I'm sorry it's unreasonable to have to get tested after you teach and wait for results before going back to work

Student: If you can't tell us that it's a student in our class, can a contact tracer at least tell us that we've had a close contact? without telling us any identifying information? Again, to echo others, don't see how this is different than reaching out to other close contacts of the student

Student: @Tracy, TFs do meet with students, they are the homework helpers, that's their job. Also, the person who is talking for 45 minutes is the person whose germs are getting into the air, so the 6-foot rule is useless for ignoring the instructor-to-student transmissibility risk. Anyway, I'll try to email Sarah H. about this. For those who don't have her email you can Google it (add Assistant Provost bu.edu to search).

From Sarah Hokanson to Everyone: (1:42 PM)
My email is sch1@bu.edu

From Sarah Hokanson to Everyone: (1:42 PM)
Just to make your lives easier!

Student: but you're learning it from us- we are your test bunnies

Student: If I am TFing 2 days in a row, should I not go to the section the next day? How do I find a replacement?

From Tracy Schroeder to Everyone:
@student, all students, faculty and staff on campus are required to provide their own masks. Guidance about effective masks was just posted last week.

Student: that's not fair

Student: can a member of administration come to at least two classes a week and work in the background

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student what do you mean/ other than my classes? Monitoring behavior?

Student: I think she's pointing out the hypocrisy that you're all meeting remotely while telling us to go and teach in person with the undergrads

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student- not true

Student: student is right

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

I am teaching twice a week in person...

Student: will they be in as much contact with undergrads as us?

Student: I can tell you that the Biology Department is opening on Monday 8/31/20.

Student: or will they be in nice offices

Student: And I assume at least the other CAS departments are also.

From Tracy Schroeder to Everyone:

IS&T technical support staff in administrative and classroom settings will be on campus in person, and I will be there in a de-densified office as part of management

Student: there's no point in bringing us to campus, either

Student: If a student will not follow social distancing/mask wearing/etc, what are our official rights as TAs? Can we kick them out of class? Could this be sent out in writing in case the student pushes back?

Student: it's not a competition yet every one of you has said "I'm going in too"

Student: ^^ in-person classes for lecture or discussion /during a pandemic/ are going to be worse than totally virtual.

Student: The sentiment might not be shared, and it is understandable that some of you may be also exposed, but it feels like there are a lot of people being used as guinea pigs, and graduate students are suffering the brunt of that role while also having no option, no PPE provided, etc. If someone lives far away, then they have to use public transportation and get more exposed... etc. This is not meant as an attack to any of you here, but the conversation needs to be had and it has been frustrating to not always get all the information.

Student: That's a disingenuous answer. We don't have the choice to teach in person. We cannot choose.

Student: I take pause with the idea that we want to be here to show our dedication. Some of us have to be here so we're just trying to make the best decisions for us.

Student: student - last time they said you can kick them out or cancel the class but I'm not sure it'll be communicated

Student: I think what's hard for me to understand is why we do not get access to information that potentially impacts our health and the health of members of our households (i.e. whether a student in our classes tests positive) because of concerns for student privacy when the students have the opportunity to not attend in person and avoid that issue altogether while we do not have a choice.

Student: "it's a choice" but our health insurance is on the line

From Tracy Schroeder to Everyone:

@student, The Dean of Students has sent out written guidance to students, and the Provost to faculty and staff indicating that you can do that, have them leave class and stop the class if they refuse to do so.

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

The power differential is real. It is important to acknowledge it.

Student: @tracy I did not receive this email

Student: I will say I've heard about a ton of faculty getting their work place adjustment requests denied :/

Student: How is BU obtaining it's testing turnaround time when the reports being sent with results indicate the test was collected and results were provided at the same exact time? That 0 minute window between collection and results will dramatically lower the average

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student- yes an IT issue - being fixed as we speak

Student: I feel more alienated by this call than before. I am reminded how little choice I have in my safety.

From Sasha Goldman to Everyone:

@student you can find this same info here:

<https://www.bu.edu/provost/2020/08/14/faculty-and-staff-health-commitments-expectations-compliance-and-resources/> In writing

Student: Thank you everyone!

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student - that is a report issue . The data on the dashboard is data from scanning - we are marrying those

Student: I'd like to see student's question answered from before: Will the BU dashboard start to use the number of individuals tested when calculating the percentage of positive cases? Because the testing paradigm at BU results in far more tests than there are individuals tested, it is important to calculate percent positive tests from the population being tested, because the percentage will appear much lower if you look at the total tests (we know that a number of tests are from the same individual and over time that same individual will be represented more and more).

From Tracy Schroeder to Everyone:

<https://www.bu.edu/provost/2020/08/14/faculty-and-staff-health-commitments-expectations-compliance-and-resources/>

Student: student it might be Med campus vs CRC, med grad students don't get notified of anything

Student: I don't want Student's comment to get lost so I am repeating. "I feel more alienated by this call than before. I am reminded how little choice I have in my safety"

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@student apologies if that is how this is coming off -

Student: Maybe the decision makers should think of the graduate students as somebody's children, not as grumbling youngsters who live to be upset about everything. This is clearly the underlying feeling about us when our questions are being countered.

Student: We know you mean well, we just want to highlight we ourselves were given no choice in any of this.

Student: What is BU doing to protect non-BU affiliated individuals in the surrounding community?

Student: y'all should look at the reddit/r/coronavirusMA

Student: They make lots of graphs daily and nicely present it in 10 diff panels daily

Student: Just a suggestion, maybe check out the UNC dashboard

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

We are trying to get info out quick.

From Tracy Schroeder to Everyone:

@Student, yes, we have looked at that one

Student: Also, could it be possible to just be more transparent and give us information. I feel like I am constantly just searching multiple sources for information bc things are plastered in different places. I prefer to be given information and KNOW than being kept in the dark and it has been a big frustration to have to look for things instead of being told.

Student: While I appreciate this meeting, I have to point out that information has generally been inconsistent (when we receive any information directly) and decision making has been non-transparent. Too many questions are unresolved. I'm not really sure how I'm supposed to trust anything.

Student: Is this meeting recorded and going to be online somewhere?

Student: will there be another one of these

Student: Would it be possible to put a disclaimer on the dashboard indicating that this percentage is not accurate so parents or students using this as their information source can be aware that it's not representative of the population?

From Sasha Goldman to Everyone:

This meeting is being recorded, yes. And the unanswered questions from today will be collated and assembled into an FAQ, answered, and posted

From Catherine M Klapperich to Everyone:

@everyone -as individual questions arise, email me and I will do my best to find answers. Also I'm @drKlapperich on Twitter. Also have secure email at cathie.klapperich@protonmail.com

Student: Where will the recordings and Q&As be posted?

Student: Thank you for those words, Sarah, we appreciate you all giving us more involvement now

From Sarah Hokanson to Everyone:

I'm going to create a separate webpage on the Grad Ed website for both recordings and an FAQ

From Sarah Hokanson to Everyone:

A few questions didn't get asked, they made it to the chat, I'll add them to the FAQ