

Student: I have a friend who is an MPH and does COVID testing in NJ and she says that anyone in a classroom should be told if someone in that room tested positive without names, that way if any symptoms occur we know to take them seriously.

Student: Interesting reading on the current topic:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/11/health/coronavirus-aerosols-indoors.html>

Student: UNC's dashboard publicly shows availability of PPE and quarantine and isolation housing. Why is this information not public-facing at BU?

Student: How effective is the type of testing BU will do vs the test where the sample is taken all the way down?

Student: How is BU planning on protecting members of surrounding communities who had no say in the reopening and do not have the same access to asymptomatic testing?

Student: Sorry, did you say grad students are expected to be tech moderators for profs?

Student: In BU's report today there's a positive case that "was confirmed noncontagious". How does this happen when no situation in the world was reported as positive and noncontagious so far? Will that person be isolated?

Student: Why won't you tell TFs if a student tests positive, even if they do not reveal the identity?

Student: were those 2 different answers? - 1 that we have to be there, 1 that maybe we don't have to be there? I'm sorry, just confused and want to clarify

Student: How can a TF maintain social distancing in a lab course? How can a lab TF make sure students are maintaining social distancing?

Student: ^^ Those answers seemed to conflict

Student: Will TA/TFs who have workplace adjustment (i.e., will not go to the campus) be required to go to the campus and be tested weekly?

Student: Do you mind repeating that? It is unclear if TFs have to be in person

Student: It seems like the responses were opposing. How do we know as TFs if we need to be on campus for a class.

Student: also confused by that

Student: if a lecture is taught remotely, is it necessary to have a real class?

Student: Why not go all online right now to prevent BU from turning into UNC?

From Judy Platt to Everyone: (12:55 PM)

If a person retests sooner than 90 days after an initial positive test and they do not have any symptoms they would be considered a positive test but not a clinical case. This is explained in the glossary on the BU Today story about the dashboard.

Student: I would like to ask a question about LfA classroom capacities and specific ventilation

Student: So discussion sections will be remote too?

Student: It seems unnecessary to have discussions in person.

Student: So if the course is NOT remote because the faculty does not have an adjustment, TFs have to attend the lecture in-person?

Student: When a TA tests positive, who is responsible for taking over their section?

Student: I'd like to see Student's questions answered

Student: Me too.

Student: To Student's point, it seems unfair to have BU TFs continually have to go in for in-person discussions if students are not showing up. Seems they should be remote

Student: How are required testing going to be enforced? Are we supposed to show our "Badge" from Patient Connect before entering the classroom?

Student: I was just assigned to TF a class where I will be moving between 3 different buildings and classrooms for 3 consecutive discussion sections. Isn't this riskier than keeping TFs in one classroom and minimizing their on-campus movement?

Student: To follow Student's question, are we expected to be the ones to check that are students have a green badge as they enter our classrooms? Who is enforcing this?

Student: What is BU going to do for students who cannot afford PPE or smartphones to display their badges?

Student: What if you just take a screenshot of the badge the day before and keep using it everyday

Student: We're aware of these enhancements, we need specific classroom information for EACH room. Not all rooms have these improvements, instructors and students deserve to know which ones are present or not present in their classroom

Student: How is BU managing the risks associated with travelling via public transit, especially during rush hour? This is concerning for all students and TFs

Student: When a student tests positive or has symptoms, who is going to make sure that student gets to quarantine housing and how will they travel there?

Student: When a TA or instructor gets covid, who is responsible for taking over their section?

From Daniel Kleinman to Everyone:

Two answers: (1) if a TF has a workplace adjustment, allowing remote teaching, they should not be on campus at all and should be in testing category 4 (not testing); (1) if a TA/TF gets sick they should work with their instructor of record, department chair or dean to find a substitute.

Student: What if two students seat close saying they are roommates?

Student: Does every classroom get portable HEPA filter? Again, specific classroom information.

Student: Who would be the "substitute"? Would they be compensated further?

Student: Why won't you tell TFs if a student tests positive?

Student: HEPA filters are 300nm in pore size while the SARS-CoV-2 virus is on average 60-100nm in diameter. How are these updated HEPA filters going to keep us safe if the virus can blow right through the filter pores?

Student: If a student is able to be remote (e.g. research fellow doing remote research, taking classes remotely) are they still supposed to be tested weekly? (particularly if they did not get a workplace adjustment and said they are "returning")

Student: When will you look at all the classrooms and make the standards more stringent?

Students are already trickling back to campus

Student: Why are you just repeating everything Student said?

From Deborah Breen she/her/hers to Everyone:

The Provost's memo from August 14 outlines steps to take with asking students to show their badges: see Student Health Expectations and Compliance section:

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

Student: How will this work in a lab course?

Student: Maximum occupancy signs have been blank at 24 Cummington for weeks apart from the small elevator which changed from capacity 1 to 2? Why? What changed?

Student: Are you saying that it is partially the responsibility of a sick TF to find a substitute?? Shouldn't there be plans for this circumstance in advance? Will TFs have a list of students and their learning designations (i.e., who is remote and who is utilizing Lfa/in-person options)? It would be good to know how many potential students we could expect in a given discussion or lecture based on what learning style the student selected

Is there a better way to ask questions so that they are thoroughly answered? Almost every question asked in the chat has not been addressed

Student: "If students are not wearing a face covering or observing physical distancing norms, we recommend that you remind them of the University's requirements, stop class and ask the student to leave if they fail to adjust their behavior. Contact the dean's office if the student refuses to leave. The University will provide each department with an emergency supply of face coverings which can be offered to students in the event that they've forgotten, lost, or damaged theirs." Is there a dean on call to just come and kick a student out

From Sarah Hokanson to Everyone:

Hi Student, My team is compiling the chat, I'll return to those in a moment. You're also welcome to raise your hand and I'll call on you

Student: @Deborah Breen, the linked memo was sent to faculty and staff. Have all undergraduates and graduates (including TFs) received that information?

Student: These 18-19y olds aren't going to listen to someone 5y older than them
How will social distancing be maintained as students come in and out of classrooms?

Student: Will students be assigned seating

Student: If a graduate student teaching fellow put in a workplace adjustment due to high health risk of in-person teaching, but received a room assignment for their teaching assignment anyway, does this mean their workplace adjustment has been denied? When will someone be following up about workplace adjustments?

Student: Why can't you just make all classes online and avoid this mess?

Student: There is a very easy alternative: make them all online and stop endangering grad students

Student: Classes start in 2 weeks—is there really enough time for all this work that still needs to be done?

Student: Has there been any discussion of passing times between courses—both so students don't directly into the airspace of the person in the course before them—and to avoid the hallway pile up as the people leaving a building run into the people arriving?

From Daniel Kleinman to Everyone:

Your dean's office should provide you with workplace adjustment decisions.

Student: When will students be officially notified whether or not their classes will be held remotely or in person? Many of us still don't know and classes begin soon...

From Daniel Kleinman to Everyone:

Whether a given TF's class will be remote or in person is information that should be provided by the TF's department and/ or school/ college

Student: For discussion sections, how will students know if they can come to class or if they are beyond capacity? What do TFs do if more students show up than will fit according to the room's capacity?

Student: in the event that an appropriate room cannot be found (especially for large lectures), will the class go remote?

Student: Thank you Deborah. I'd like to be sure that everyone (faculty, staff, undergrads, grads) is receiving the same information and that our students are aware of the expected procedures before they step into any classroom

From Deborah Breen she/her/hers to Everyone:

@Student: I believe information will be available this way: There is a new function on the Student Link that allows students to provide their residential location (on-campus, off-campus, or outside of the region) and the way in which they are going to engage their classes (in-person or wholly remotely). This information will be available in instructor class lists on the Faculty Link. Additionally, daily reports will be run that will provide department chairs and administration staff with information on students' indicator selections. It would also be good to ask your students regularly if they intend to change their attendance mode.

Student: What are the steps taken to specifically protect your graduate student TFs, who have very little choice in teaching in person and have been given almost no information about it?

When will we learn specific information about our fall semester (besides the filtration of classrooms)?

Student: Student previously mentioned pore size—specifically, what is the pore size of these filters?

Student: What if a TA gets covid and cannot find a substitute? Why are the healthy TAs then responsible for taking on multiple sections (on top of our own research and coursework)?

Student: Are there requirements for providing physical vs virtual office hours, or is that up to the TA and instructor to discuss?

From Deborah Breen she/her/hers to Everyone:

For Student: and everyone on information for students:

<http://www.bu.edu/dos/policies/lifebook/covid-19-policies-for-students/#expectations>

Student: Is BU already in process making posthumous degrees for every one of their TAs

Student: 1. Specific classroom filtration information: will it be provided to instructors
2. What will change about classroom capacities if you have to re-review ALL classrooms in just two weeks
3. Do you have an exemption from the governor's indoor order? My questions were not answered.

From Sarah Hokanson to Everyone: (1:17 PM)

@Student, I can say the reopening guidelines for higher ed are different than for other venues. I'll share more via email, am just on vacation today and so can follow up on number 3 offline

Student: I also want to know about what to do if I, as a TA, test positive—how am I replaced for those 2 weeks?

Student: But it's not safe. Look at UNC

Student: Harvard and MIT are residential too but weighed the costs and went virtual

Student: @Sarah Hokanson, thank you this #3 should be public information. #1 and #2 still stand are vitally important to classroom safety.

Student: I agree with Student. Does not seem like BU is prioritizing grad students. We have to be on-campus in most cases. Our funding is threatened, but it seems like faculty and undergrads get a choice and we don't when it comes to TFs. My courses and research are all remote, but because of my specific class I am now forced to risk my health 4 days per week when it's unclear how many students will actually come to discussions, when the classroom info

is up in the air. I am healthy so I don't have a workplace adjustment, but somehow it feels like I'm penalized for that, when I would much rather teach remotely and effectively to keep myself and others safe.

Student: We have acknowledgement that #2 WAS broken already, what will be better now? No answers.

From Sarah Hokanson to Everyone: (1:19 PM)

@Student, it should. I'm happy to post to Slack, I just can't moderate and respond at the same time!

Student: That's fine, the experts should be the ones answering these

Student: What if some students in a class don't come in person? Are they counted towards the 20 limit?

Student: As several others have noted, there doesn't seem to be a consistent policy for getting a substitute instructor for our classes if we fall ill or are required to quarantine. This is particularly concerning for those of us who are the instructor of record and don't have other instructional staff to fall back on. How are we supposed to ensure continuity of instruction? What access to course materials will substitutes have? How will they be paid?

Student: Instead of everyone emailing Sarah, can you give us ALL the answers?

Student: I don't think it is fair to relate this to other semesters

Student: I am still unclear on this piece: If, a course has both lecture and discussion components, and the lecture is remote, who decides if the TF is allowed to hold discussions for that class remotely?

Student: Is the policy for continued funding in case of quarantine or sick leave also on a college level?

Student: "They probably should be" WHAT

Student: ad hoc means inequity

Student: Why can't all TFs teach remotely?

Student: Thank you for signal boosting my question, Sarah Hokanson, but I am still confused. I will follow up with my department, but this feels like it leaves a lot of room for uncertainty and inequity.

Student: Is BU offering parking for us so we don't have to take public transit?

Student: What is the threshold for going completely remote?

Student: BU revoked daily parking for grad students unless you want to buy a pass for several hundred dollars but not if you live in Brookline, Brighton, Allston, or Back Bay

Student: sooo... no lmao

Student: essentially

Student: Is there a date by which students can expect to be notified as to whether their classes are in person or not? If not, why is there no institution-wide mandated date by which departments must notify students?

Student: Will there be any personnel checking if students are wearing their masks at the exist of dorms or entrances on campus buildings?

Student: No, grad students have to enforce it^^ And then call the dean If they aren't listened

Student: Why isnt every student being given a mask? Most other schools are doing this

Student: BU should provide masks that are safe, not allow for bandanas etc

Student: What if there aren't emergency supplies available

Student: Where would "emergency supplies" come from?

Student: Can I ask a student to leave for wearing the bandana style "mask" that's not effective?

Student: Can't we just dismiss the class pre-emptively

Student: Why are you expecting that 18 year olds will actually follow these directions And why are you valuing their lives more than ours?

Student: Nothing said so far in this meeting has outlined anything that has been done to protect teaching fellows

Student: I appreciate the effort on this panel, but we all know none of this is sufficient and it is further proving graduate students are not valued as we should be. We will definitely work more than previous semesters to keep the university afloat and are in effect risking our lives without choice to do so. As stated, this is an extraordinary moment but extraordinary care is not being given.

Student: BU had these mask guidelines as of July 18th but it was taken off the site. I have the PDF saved. Why were they taken down?

From Bob Whitfield to Everyone: (1:31 PM)

The Back2BU guide has a section on face coverings. That is still up.

Student: If BU is safe for students and grad students to be in-person, why aren't BU admins having meetings in person?

Student: The way to make us feel valued is to listen to our protests, complaints, and anger and close campus

Student: <https://www.bu.edu/back2bu/student-health-safety/face-coverings/> I see they are back up here, thank you

Student: If acquiring their own adequate PPE represents a financial barrier to any student, or masks are not available to them due to where they live/are traveling from/PPE is understandably in short supply, would BU provide PPE as a matter of equity?

Student: These are the same ones that were previously in the PDF

Student: Man, it's a very fair question

Student: If admin cared about grad students, they could at least answer our questions. I have sent multiple to different deans and provosts with no answers

Student: If you value your TFs, you wouldn't put them at risk though

Student: Re: 18-year-old decision making, I appreciate that there will be signing an agreement, but the neurodevelopmental reality is that decision-making and risk-taking behavior are different among 18-22 year olds.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/15/opinion/coronavirus-college-safe.html>

Student: If you cared about us, you wouldn't coerce us to come back into the classroom...

Student: Wearing masks does not mean covid will not be transmitted. Even if undergraduates are committed to wearing masks, no school is equipped for social distancing.

Student: Doctors in full PPE are still getting sick and they limit their exposure to patients as much as possible.

Student: So all the other universities that have decided to switch to online only classes are doing that because of no reason? It does seem they care more than BU admins...

Student: I think what's so frustrating for many of us is that it seems fairly obvious that the extensive measures put in place (masks, ventilation improvements, social distancing, etc.) are in fact **ineffective** given the realities of other universities that have reopened. While the measures BU is taking are "good" ones given the circumstances, they are not enough.

Student: Can I ask a follow up question

Student: How is BU planning to enforce that anyone who tested positive for COVID doesn't show up to the class or lab sessions?

Student: ^ does it show up on the badge?

Student: "As safe as possible" still not safe enough

Student: But a lot of those universities reversed course without even attempting to try in person

Student: There is nothing that is riskless, but teaching from home is lower-risk than being in a classroom.

Student: And we don't get to decide whether we want to take the risk or not

Student: don't understand why classes that HAVE to be in person should be prioritized, like lab sections, and make the rest online to be safer

Student: It's frustrating that the people who are making the decisions on /our/ risks don't have to take any of their own. (i.e. admins who can work from home)

Student: And with no set public threshold for closure we're left in this vacuum of not knowing how long we are going to have to continue putting ourselves at risk

Student: Agree with @Student

Student: were faculty staff and students involved in that decision making process?

Student: Someone asked about the threshold for switching to online—what is it?

Student: Why not to make classes that need to be in person the only ones that are held in person?

Student: Yes, Student. It's the fact we did not get to decide about taking the risk. Even if you make it safer, the fact that we do not have the choice about if we risk our lives, is the fundamental problem

Student: ^^ yes, Student

Student: Yeah, I also feel that the graduate workers are totally out of the loop of consultation regarding our own workplace. People at the top are making decisions for us.

Student: That's good to hear, thank you.

Student: Is there a specific phone app (Healthway app) or are these badges meant to be displayed from the browser through PatientConnect? There have been mixed messages

Student: I was talking with my instructor of record today and they have a course of 100 and was not assigned a moderator

Student: How will we know which students elected for in person instruction and when?

Student: Why can't you give access to TFs to check if their student has the green badge?

Student: Most TFs don't have access to faculty link unless their instructors decide to share that with them

Student: No details beyond red or green needed

Student: We are sending out our own poll for our course. What if students want to attend in-person to some classes and remote for others? Do they have that option on student link?

Student: How will students be able to "shop" for classes during the first week of classes? Are students encouraged to shop only remotely so as not to exceed the classroom capacities?

Student: It will be hard to enforce that, especially since we cannot see their faces

Student: Thank you for asking the question, Sarah Hokanson. I look forward to a followup on this one

Student: Did we ever address why you won't tell TFs if their in person student tests positive?

Student: Will TA/TFs who have workplace adjustment (i.e., will not go to the campus) be required to go to the campus and be tested weekly?

Student: Just because we are not close contacts doesn't mean that we shouldn't know so that we can monitor our own health

Student: That should absolutely be the policy—just tell people who shared a classroom of that person so they can assess for themselves how they feel.

Student: EXACTLY @Student

Student: Its very easy to just say "fyi one of your students tested positive keep an eye on yourself" without breaking HIPAA

Student: ^Similar for students who test positive not in your course but uses the same classroom

Student: Are graduate students made aware of these categories being discussed? I have not received any notification of my own category

Student: I would love a typed follow up on this meeting and these questions.

Student: when should we be notified?

Student: Who will notify us?

Student: regarding the online portion of the class, who is going to be responsible for the video recording?

Student: If a grad student is choosing to take their classes remotely and does research remotely, they're not necessarily Category 2, right? They could theoretically be level 3 even without workplace adjustment?

Student: A general problem is that the information we graduate students receive via formal channels are very messy. Some of us got some emails while others did not. I would definitely call for a higher consistency and transparency of information sharing

Student: This is very true ^

Student: Given the kinds of answers we've heard today, it seems clear to me that the time for asking questions is over. Instead, it's time for us grads to organize to take care of each other, our students, other campus workers, and our communities. We have each other and that's all we need

Student: ^yes Student

Student: ^^we protect us!!^^

Student: But that shouldn't be our job

Student: Are other staff being given this kind of panel? Custodians? Dining hall workers?

From Ernie Perez to Everyone:

<https://digital.bu.edu/lfa-classroom-recordings/>

From Daniel Kleinman to Everyone: (1:57 PM)

@Student: yes!

Student: Thank you for organizing this forum, Sarah, and for the experts and leaders for joining us! This is an extremely helpful form of communication and we wish to see more of this in the future

Student: I "heard" that there are university policies on Zoom recording and stuffs. Where should we find policies regarding students' privacy and remote teaching?

Student: We truly appreciate all of the work you've put into this, Sarah.

Student: Thank you Sarah

Student: Thank you Sarah

Student: Thanks Sarah!

Student: Thank you!

Student: Thank you Sarah!

Student: Thank you, Sarah, for hosting!

Student: Thank you for organizing this Sarah, would love more of these.

Student: Thank you Sarah!

From Ernie Perez to Everyone:

<https://digital.bu.edu/lfa-classroom-recordings/>