TO: Boston University Faculty

FROM: Jean Morrison, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer
       Daniel Kleinman, Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs
       Amie Grills, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

DATE: September 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Strategies for Helping Students in Quarantine/Isolation Due to COVID-19 Maintain Academic Continuity

Quarantine and isolation are critical public health measures used for reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. At BU, students who need to enter quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19 will be asked to follow specific guidelines which will require their absence from classes. While they are following these protocols, they may need assistance in keeping up with their academic work. We have asked faculty to remain flexible and supportive in these circumstances.

To ensure that all students and faculty have access to the necessary resources, each school/college has designated an Academic Continuity Coordinator to help students and faculty navigate learning and teaching for students in isolation/quarantine due to COVID-19. You may be contacted by an Academic Continuity Coordinator about a particular student, but you should also feel free to reach out to your school’s Academic Continuity Coordinator for assistance. In addition, each school/college has an identified member of their team who can provide support for faculty and course instructors who have questions about how to support students. The list of these individuals is provided at the end of this document.

As you know, the transition this fall back to in-person classes means that we will no longer offer recording or live-streaming of classes as a substitute for attendance. We do, however, encourage you to consider alternative strategies for helping students maintain academic continuity should they be in quarantine/isolation due to COVID-19. A list of possible options for supporting students’ learning while they are in quarantine/isolation can be found under the Teaching and Research FAQ section of the Back2BU Faculty Support webpage.

As we work together to help ensure a safe and successful semester ahead, it is the contributions of faculty to this effort that perhaps make the greatest difference. The commitment you have shown over the last 18 months to support the academic progress of your students has been truly remarkable. You have helped make BU a national model for teaching and learning amid the COVID response, and we want to thank you for your continued devotion both to this university and to all those in your classrooms, laboratories, and studios – particularly those facing disruption in their academic lives.

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