

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
OFF-CAMPUS & HYBRID PROGRAMS (OCHP)  
BEDFORD, CAPE COD, FALL RIVER AND WORCESTER CAMPUSES**

**COVID-19 Information & Resources for Faculty and Staff**

[Boston University Covid -19 Information](#)

Boston University COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

The best ways to protect yourself and others against severe COVID-19 infections is to stay up to date with [COVID-19 vaccines](#), wear a mask in crowded, indoor spaces, and test if you are not feeling well. We will be transitioning from a university COVID-19 vaccination mandate to a tiered vaccination policy.

- **COVID-19 General Population Vaccination Policy:** We **strongly recommend** that everyone remain up to date with all [CDC COVID-19 vaccination recommendations](#).
- **COVID-19 Clinical Population Vaccination Policy:** All faculty, students, and staff who provide direct patient-facing healthcare will be **required** to provide documentation of a COVID-19 primary series and booster or submit a religious or medical waiver.

Masking

Masks remain **required in all healthcare** spaces at Boston University until further notice. Our masking policy is currently aligned with the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 mask requirements](#). We continue to recommend masking inside your home if you or others in the home are not feeling well or if you have [underlying medical conditions that place you at a higher risk](#) for severe COVID-19. We continue to encourage the use of high-quality masks (such as N95s, KN95s, KF94s, and FFP3/2s) that cover the nose, mouth, and chin and [fit securely](#) to reduce the risk of viral transmission.

- For more information about COVID-19 faculty and staff can visit the [Occupational Health Center COVID-19 website](#).

COVID-19 Testing

Testing is available and should be utilized if someone has symptoms or a known exposure to someone who tests positive. For info go to: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>

- Local resources (healthcare provider, Board of Health, and free testing options) can provide guidance around the need to be tested or quarantined/isolated.

Quarantining and Isolation Guidance

The [Massachusetts Covid Protocols](#) and the [Boston University's Quarantine & Isolation Protocols](#) will guide you through the steps to take if you have symptoms, are a close contact or test positive.

Instructors Unable to Teach Class due to Covid-19

Please inform your Program Director, Department Chair, and students prior to class if unable to attend due to a need to quarantine or isolate. The Program Director and Department Chair will work with you to determine the best way to manage the missed class time and content.

Questions about these teaching resources, contact your department chairs:

- **Renee Spencer** ([rspenc@bu.edu](mailto:rspenc@bu.edu)): Human Behavior, Policy and Research
- **Jordana Muroff** ([jmuroff@bu.edu](mailto:jmuroff@bu.edu)): Clinical Practice
- **Lenette Azzi-Lessing** ([llessing@bu.edu](mailto:llessing@bu.edu)): Macro Practice

## Strategies for Supporting Students Absent due to Covid-19

Off-Campus & Hybrid (OCHP) students who need to quarantine/isolate due to COVID-19 can miss significant content quickly due to the structure of our courses. **Please alert the Program Director if you are contacted by a student about missing class due to a COVID-related concern.** We are committed to keeping our community safe while minimizing the impact of such absences on the student's ability to achieve competency with the course content.

We encourage faculty to consider some of these strategies for helping students maintain academic continuity

### ***Create a partnership with other students at the beginning of the course:***

- During the first class, create pairs or triads of students who can provide notes for each other in the event one of them has to miss class.
- During the first class, create a list of note-takers for the class who would be willing to share their notes with a student who is absent.
- At the start of the specific class that has an absent student, identify a student willing to share their notes with the absent cohort member.

### ***Identify some supplemental readings or activities you could suggest to a student that might fill in any gaps from a missed class.***

- Share any presentation materials or teaching notes from the class with the absent student.
- Utilize content from the equivalent online course when it is available to supplement a student's learning and integration of content; online course content will be included on your Blackboard site if it is a course that has been taught online.
- Meet with the student, perhaps during office hours, to review the material covered in the classes they miss or answer questions they may have about materials/notes shared with them from missed classes.

### ***Allow a student to do a substitute assignment, make up the work later in the semester, or re-weight other assignments toward the final grade, if they have missed an in-class assignment/activity/ project.***

- For classes with a participation component, students might demonstrate that they have engaged with the assigned material in other ways (e.g., a single page reflection on the readings).
- Provide flexibility with when assignments are due if a student needs an extension due to a COVID related illness.

### ***Recommended process for COVID-related accommodation:***

- Include the Program Director in any request for a COVID-related accommodation.
- After a plan is created, email a summary of it and the associated expectations to the student and cc the Program Director. If the student is feeling well enough, you can ask the student to email an outline of the plan to you, copying the Program Director.
- Notify the Program Director if the plan is not followed.
- Keep a record of the accommodation and do your best to be equitable across requests

### ***Review resources at and/or consider scheduling a consultation with the [Center for Teaching & Learning](#) to assist with course adaptations or ideas specific to your course needs.***

- If, due to ongoing illness, the student indicates they will miss more class than the standard isolation/quarantine periods, have them contact [Disability & Access Services](#) to discuss possible accommodations.

## Boston University Health & Wellness Resources

- [Student Wellbeing](#)
- [Health Promotion & Prevention](#)
- [Behavioral Medicine](#) - 617-353-3569 (24/7 on-call)
- [Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center](#)