



# COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE

**This communication about planning for the Spring 2021 semester was sent to students earlier today.**

Dear Students:

As we continue to monitor the guidance of health and safety officials, we remain steadfastly committed to delivering an exemplary education for our students.

To that end, the University has invested in and will implement minimally invasive rapid COVID-19 testing (15-minute results) for all on- and off-campus students free of charge. Testing will be administered before the start of the spring semester, and random testing will continue throughout the semester. The combination of this testing along with physical distancing, hand washing, mandatory mask-wearing, and containment and necessary isolation/quarantine will offer us the best opportunity to have the campus experience we all prefer.

We recognize how difficult these times have been on all of us, especially our first-year students. Being on-campus adds to the richness of a university experience. These decisions are never easy, so we ask that you make the decision that is best for you and your family or supporters.

Please review the following considerations in your planning for the Spring 2021 semester:

## **PIVOT TO TEMPORARY REMOTE LEARNING AND COVID-19 TESTING**

- If our total number of cases amongst the BU campus community (students and employees) meets or exceeds 2% within a three-week period, we will pivot to a **two-week period of temporary remote learning**.
- If we must pivot for two weeks, the decision to resume in-person instruction will be based upon the behavior of students and their willingness to be tested.
- A student who tests positive will be allowed to return to campus at the end of the appropriate isolation or quarantine at the direction of the Student Health Center.

## **ACADEMICS**

- Courses will be offered in-person, remotely, or in a hybrid format to provide students the greatest flexibility to adapt their living/learning environment while considering the ongoing concerns associated with the COVID-19 virus. Nearly 40% of our curriculum remains face-to-face and hybrid (hybrid is identified as remote with some face-to-face component).
- When registering for classes, you will be able to identify the mode of delivery for each course and have some flexibility with how you build your schedule.

- Similar to the fall semester, there are three sessions available within the spring semester to provide greater flexibility in managing your courses.

#### **STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

- Before returning to campus, you will be required to read and sign (in MyHusky) a statement of understanding that acknowledges the existence of the COVID-19 virus, its associated risks, and the expected student requirements for remaining compliant in practicing physical distancing, hand washing, mask-wearing, and the importance of testing and isolation/quarantine when indicated.

#### **UNDERLYING MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

- If you have an underlying medical condition that may place you at an increased risk for severe illness upon contracting COVID-19, we have options available to meet your needs. Please contact the Student Health Center for guidance by calling 570-389-4451.

#### **ON-CAMPUS HOUSING, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

- On-campus housing will be available to interested students. The deadline to request space is December 15.
- Restrictions on visitation and the ability to gather as groups will depend on student behavior and compliance with our health and safety requirements.
- We remain committed to providing a high-quality campus experience. Students will continue to be charged the applicable fees for the services available, as approved by the Council of Trustees in March of 2020.
- Student programming (clubs and organizations) will remain focused on virtual opportunities, while in-person opportunities will be scaled following guidance from health and safety officials.

#### **DEVELOP YOUR CONTINGENCY PLANS NOW**

- A limited number of housing options will be available to assist with transitioning students into isolation (COVID positive) or quarantine (possible exposure). Due to limited availability, alternate housing options cannot be guaranteed.
- Students should plan to seek alternate arrangements, such as returning home to isolate, recover, or quarantine. On-campus residents will not be charged for housing or dining costs when they are away from campus recovering.

We will continue to communicate regularly through weekly COVID-19 updates and remind you to adhere to our health and safety requirements. Remember to check our [COVID-19](#) and [Spring 2021](#) webpages frequently for the latest updates. Please stay safe, mask up, and thank you for your continued cooperation. A successful campus experience for all will require the cooperation of each member of the BU Family.

Sincerely,  
Tom Fletcher  
Vice-President, Student Success and Enrollment Services

## COVID-19 Weekly Update – Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020

Please refer to the COVID-19 dashboard at the top of our [COVID-19 webpage](#) for updated case numbers and helpful information. Information is updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and is based on laboratory-verified test results reported to the Bloomsburg University Student Health Center or Office of Workplace Safety. As a reminder, our COVID communications have consolidated to just Wednesdays. Students, faculty, and staff all receive e-news or The Week Ahead and Onward on Mondays and Thursdays. Any necessary updates would be incorporated there, or in a supplemental communication under the COVID-19 heading.

We remind all students that with the recent rise in COVID-19 cases both locally and state-wide, everyone needs to continue to wear a mask, observe social distancing and practice good hygiene.

### COVID Testing

COVID-19 testing for those students exhibiting symptoms is available from the BU Student Health Center by making an appointment. We also will evaluate testing for asymptomatic with a positive COVID contact. Testing will be available up to the end of the semester. Please call 570-389-4451.

### Area in Kehr Union Building to Open for Student Use

In light of the colder weather now being with us, the area outside of the Husky Lounge in the Kehr Union Building will be open for student use. Please note that the entire building is not open to the general student population or community. When inside the building, remember to wear a mask, stay socially distant, and practice good hygiene.

#### Days and Hours the Building is Open

Wednesday, Nov. 11	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 12	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 13	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 14	CLOSED
Sunday, Nov. 15	9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 16	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 17	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 18	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 19	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 20	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 21	CLOSED
Sunday, Nov. 22	CLOSED
Monday, Nov. 23	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 24	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 25	CLOSED
Thursday, Nov. 26	CLOSED
Friday, Nov. 27	CLOSED
Saturday, Nov. 28	CLOSED
Sunday, Nov. 29	CLOSED