



Boston City Council

LIZ BREADON

Councilor - District 9

Dear President Brown and President Leahy:

We are in the middle of a global pandemic the likes of which we have not seen for over one hundred years. Covid-19 is highly contagious and has infected five million and taken the lives of over 160,000 Americans. It has wreaked havoc on all aspects of our public life and it is far from over. People coming to Massachusetts must quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative Covid-19 test administered 72 hours before arrival. The penalty for non-compliance is a \$500 fine, yet I have little confidence that we can enforce this regulation for returning students living off campus.

It is of great concern to residents of Allston-Brighton that off-campus students are already returning from numerous places around the country which are experiencing out-of-control surges in infections, and that many people are asymptomatic while spreading infection to others.

It appears that off-campus students will not have the same level of access to quarantine facilities, medical support and monitoring as those living on campus. The physical proximity of off-campus students to neighborhood residents increases the risk of community spread beyond the university campus.

Specific issues of concern are:

- How can we ensure that a student who tests positive while living with non-positive roommates will adhere to a 14 day quarantine confined to their own apartment?
- What medical support is available to a student whose condition deteriorates while living off-campus?
- What is the contact tracing apparatus for off-campus students?
- What are the penalties / consequences for students who do not adhere to their quarantine?
- What are the penalties / consequences for hosting / attending large group parties?
- What are the penalties / consequences for not appropriately wearing a mask and socially distancing in public?

As an elected official for this district, I would like to see a more robust plan to support the health and wellness of students living off campus, and an enforceable code of conduct, not just for students' safety, but that of the community at large.

Given the large number of off-campus students from Boston University and Boston College who live in Allston-Brighton, I urge you to rearrange your plans and shift to remote learning for the majority of the student populations this fall, and continue to monitor the virus and public health guidance as the year progresses.

Sincerely,

Liz Breadon