**Friday, May 15, 2020**

**News Digest: Penn State and the COVID-19 Crisis**

This email provides a high-level overview of University pandemic-related news and updates during the past week. Please review and forward this weekly news digest to colleagues to keep them informed of recent developments.

* Penn State is canceling, rescheduling, or moving to virtual delivery all nonessential events and meetings [through at least June 30](https://news.psu.edu/story/620141/2020/05/14/penn-state-canceling-postponing-offering-virtually-all-events-through-june) at all university campuses. Any essential in-person meetings or events must have fewer than 10 attendees and maintain good social distancing practices, with all staff and participants wearing face masks.
* More than 25,000 Penn State students will receive [cash grants of up to $1,000 each](https://news.psu.edu/story/619979/2020/05/13/administration/penn-state-allocate-covid-19-federal-emergency-aid-grants) in an initial round of funding from the university’s share of the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.
* Penn State announced plans and procedures for [students to move out of campus residence halls](https://news.psu.edu/story/619367/2020/05/09/campus-life/penn-state-announces-plan-procedure-students-move-out). Also, in collaboration with the Centre Region of Council of Governments and State College Borough, Penn State sent a [letter](https://www.psu.edu/ur/newsdocuments/student_letter_may2020.pdf) to University Park students offering safety guidance for moving out of off-campus residences.
* [New default security settings for all university Zoom users](https://news.psu.edu/story/619049/2020/05/08/administration/attention-all-zoom-users-new-security-settings-take-effect) took effect Monday, May 11. Review the full list of setting changes, a screencast, and other resources on the new [Zoom Security webpage](https://security.psu.edu/zoom-meetings/).
* Undergraduate Admissions announced details of its [new “Flex Start” program](https://admissions.psu.edu/coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions-faq/flex-start/what-is-flex-start/), which offers students the flexibility to change their first-year campus of admission.
* On Thursday, Penn State held the first event in its series — [Class of 2024: A Virtual “Welcome to the Penn State Community,”](http://classof2024.psu.edu/) consisting of four livestream Q&A sessions with students, alumni, faculty, and members of Penn State’s leadership team. The archived live event can be viewed at [Classof2024.psu.edu](https://classof2024.psu.edu/).
* University Libraries provided [guidance for borrowers, including recent graduates, on returning checked-out books and other items](https://news.psu.edu/story/619480/2020/05/11/academics/libraries-updates-borrowers-returning-materials-and-rented), such as rented multimedia equipment.
* **REMINDER:** President Barron will host a [virtual Town Hall at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19](https://news.psu.edu/story/618983/2020/05/06/administration/penn-state-leaders-answer-questions-may-19-virtual-town-hall), about how Penn State continues to manage the pandemic’s impacts. The hourlong event (to be livestreamed at <https://liveevents.psu.edu/>) will include Provost Jones and key faculty and administrative leaders involved in planning the university’s return to work and learning strategies.

**To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, visit:**

* The University’s official [COVID-19 information site](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo)and [FAQ page](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/faqs/)
(Note: The most recent FAQ updates are provided [here](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/faqs/#latest))
* The [“University Measures” webpage](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/university-measures/), which summarizes steps Penn State is taking in response to COVID-19.
* The [Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site](https://hr.psu.edu/covid-19-coronavirus)
* A robust [list of contacts and resources](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/contacts-and-resources-for-penn-staters/)for the University community
* The University websites dedicated to remote [teaching](http://remoteteaching.psu.edu/) and [learning](http://remotelearning.psu.edu/)