**Friday, June 5, 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 it to colleagues in your units.

* While Penn State’s plans for Fall 2020 are still under consideration, the task groups working on returning students and employees to campus are planning to [meet or exceed the expectations of universities](https://news.psu.edu/story/622179/2020/06/03/campus-life/penn-state-meet-or-exceed-wolf-administrations-higher-education), which were [announced Wednesday by the Pennsylvania Department of Education](https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Safe%20Schools/COVID/GuidanceDocuments/PDE%20Preliminary%20Reopening%20Guidance%20Postsecondary%20and%20Adult%20Education.pdf).
* Penn State is examining the [potential return of small student cohorts to campuses during the second summer session](https://news.psu.edu/story/622335/2020/06/04/academics/penn-state-examining-bringing-back-select-student-groups-based) as the University is able to meet the [governor’s requirements](https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Safe%20Schools/COVID/GuidanceDocuments/PDE%20Preliminary%20Reopening%20Guidance%20Postsecondary%20and%20Adult%20Education.pdf).
* If you are among the [Penn State employees who have received unemployment benefit checks even though you are working](https://news.psu.edu/story/622246/2020/06/04/administration/pennsylvania-residents-should-be-aware-unemployment) and have not filed a claim for such compensation, immediately inform your unit [Human Resources Strategic Partner or Consultant](https://hr.psu.edu/content/hr-strategic-partner-and-consultant-directory)and contact the [Department of Labor and Industry](https://www.uc.pa.gov/Fraud/Pages/default.aspx). **Do not cash a fraudulent check if you receive one**.
* To accommodate students living in areas that will soon have their travel restrictions relaxed, Penn State has [extended the residence hall move-out period for several campuses](https://news.psu.edu/story/621815/2020/06/01/campus-life/penn-state-extends-move-out-some-campuses).
* Beginning June 10, Penn State’s School of Public Policy is hosting a virtual speaker series, [“Policy and the Pandemic,”](https://news.psu.edu/story/622016/2020/06/02/public-events/virtual-speaker-series-focus-covid-19-response-and-policy) every Wednesday at 2 p.m.
* The Penn State Social Science Research Institute recently launched a [website featuring pandemic-related insights from University experts](http://covid-19.ssri.psu.edu/) and other resources.
* [Penn State is one of 15 institutions participating](https://news.psu.edu/story/621415/2020/05/27/research/gathering-big-data-accelerate-covid-19-fight) in the [National COVID Cohort Collaborative](https://covid.cd2h.org/N3C), which will turn anonymized data from patients’ medical records into effective treatments and predictive tools.
* Penn State’s Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics is asking Centre County residents to [take a 10-minute, anonymous survey](https://news.psu.edu/video/621725/2020/05/29/research/what-data4action-project-ask-cidd), which will document health, economic, educational, social and other impacts during the pandemic.
* Previously scheduled for August 11-13, Penn State’s [2020 Ag Progress Days expo has been canceled](https://news.psu.edu/story/621752/2020/06/01/campus-life/penn-states-ag-progress-days-expo-cancelled-wake-coronavirus) due to the pandemic.
* **REMINDERS:**
  + All University employees who are currently working remotely should plan to do so until further notice.
  + The [recently launched “Back to State” webpage](https://news.psu.edu/story/621790/2020/06/01/new-back-state-page-dedicated-information-about-return-campus) includes information for students, faculty, and staff regarding the latest plans for an eventual return to classes and work on campus.
  + 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 participants wearing face masks.
  + The University will announce its plans for the Fall 2020 semester by Monday, June 15.

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

* The University’s [“Back to State” page](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/back-to-state), official [COVID-19 information site](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo)and [FAQ page](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/faqs/) (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) and [“Return to Work](https://sites.psu.edu/returntowork/)” resource site
* A robust [list of contacts and resources](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/contacts-and-resources-for-penn-staters/)for the University community
* The Penn State websites dedicated to remote [teaching](http://remoteteaching.psu.edu/) and [learning](http://remotelearning.psu.edu/)