**Friday, June 12, 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.

* The University will announce its plans for the Fall 2020 semester on Monday, June 15.
* Penn State is preparing for a coordinated, phased return to on-campus working, learning, and living at locations across the Commonwealth. Information about the process will be posted on the [“Back to State” webpage.](https://news.psu.edu/story/621790/2020/06/01/new-back-state-page-dedicated-information-about-return-campus) The [University’s comprehensive COVID-19 FAQ webpage](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/faq) also will be updated regularly with new or significantly revised questions and answers for students, faculty, staff, and the community.

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* [“Return to Work” survey results](https://news.psu.edu/story/623068/2020/06/11/results-facultystaff-%E2%80%98return-work%E2%80%99-survey-inform-university-strategies) show that faculty and staff largely support COVID-19 mitigation measures, such as testing, contact tracing, quarantine, and social distancing. University leaders are reviewing that data and the [results of a similar student-focused survey](https://news.psu.edu/story/623071/2020/06/11/students-surveyed-views-potential-return-campus) to inform strategies for returning to Penn State campuses.
* Penn State [suspended all Fall 2020 semester-long study abroad programming](https://news.psu.edu/story/622560/2020/06/08/academics/global-programs-announces-cancellation-fall-education-abroad).
* The recently updated [Zoom at Penn State](https://zoom.psu.edu/) website offers students, faculty, and staff detailed information about the online meeting tool, including training resources, frequently asked questions, and support.
* Penn State University Libraries has added two Zoom sessions to its [Enabling Remote Research seminar series](https://news.psu.edu/story/620619/2020/05/19/research/two-sessions-added-enabling-remote-research-seminar-series) to help researchers shift their work from onsite to offsite.
* 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) on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. The next session on June 17 focuses on state and local officials’ response to the pandemic.
* On Monday, [Penn State Athletics began a phased approach](https://news.psu.edu/story/622336/2020/06/04/athletics/penn-state-athletics-begins-phased-return-june-8) to returning to campus with football student-athletes.
* Penn State is [making SAT/ACT score submissions optional](https://news.psu.edu/story/622605/2020/06/08/academics/satact-scores-optional-summer-or-fall-2021-admission) for prospective students applying for Summer or Fall 2021 admission. The university’s undergraduate application for Summer/Fall 2021 will open on August 1.
* The Board of Trustees [delayed the election of its officers](https://news.psu.edu/story/622840/2020/06/09/administration/trustees-delay-officer-elections-due-pandemic), originally scheduled in July, due to COVID-19 safety measures.
* The Institute of State and Regional Affairs at [Penn State Harrisburg released new data](https://news.psu.edu/story/621457/2020/05/27/research/new-data-examines-pennsylvanians%E2%80%99-trust-public-officials-amid) examining Pennsylvanians’ trust in public officials to provide pandemic-related information.
* **REMINDERS:**
  + All University employees who are currently working remotely should plan to do so until further notice.
  + 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.

**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://virusinfo.psu.edu/faq). (Note: The most recent FAQ updates are provided [here)](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/faq/topic/latest-updates)
* 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
* The University’s [health information page focused on personal safety practices](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/stay-well) for Penn Staters at all campuses
* 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/)
* The Social Science Research Institute [website featuring pandemic-related insights from University experts](http://covid-19.ssri.psu.edu/) and other resources