

**Friday, February 12, 2021**

## **News for Faculty and Instructors: Penn State and COVID-19**

This twice-weekly email is designed to provide faculty and instructors with Penn State's pandemic-related news and updates during the Spring 2021 semester. Watch for these emails on Tuesdays and Fridays, with additional "special editions" delivered periodically. Previous faculty news digests are [archived here](#). For current faculty guidance, resources, FAQ documents, and more visit the "[Back to State Info for Faculty](#)" webpage.

### **QUESTIONS FROM FACULTY**

**Q: *Do students need to do COVID testing again after returning to campus?***

**A:** Yes. There are two rounds of testing required for all students. Students from all campuses must have a negative COVID-19 test result from a University-provided test on file prior to, and within 72 hours of, their return to their campus community. In addition, during the first two weeks of in-person learning, the University will conduct universal re-testing of all students. Read the full FAQ [here](#).

**Q: *How will I know if a student in my class tests positive for COVID-19?***

**A:** Due to federal laws (HIPAA), faculty should not ask the COVID-19 testing status of students, as faculty are not responsible for monitoring or enforcing testing requirements. Learn more about [testing information here](#).

Faculty who are teaching will receive an email from [contacttracing@psu.edu](mailto:contacttracing@psu.edu) if one of their students is in quarantine or isolation, including information on when the student may return to the classroom. CDC guidelines and University testing procedures may permit students to leave isolation and quarantine earlier than expected if specific criteria are met. Faculty will be notified a second time if their student is permitted to leave quarantine or isolation earlier than previously communicated; however, there may be a slight delay in that process as contact tracers notify Student Support Services, which in turn will notify the faculty member of the change. If the student attends class in person before the end of the quarantine or isolation period that was communicated to the faculty member, it may be because the student tested out. However, if a student attends an in-person class before they complete their quarantine or isolation period without having tested out, then a referral should be made to the Office of Student Conduct.

### **LATEST NEWS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACULTY**

- Penn State's [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) shows ongoing results for all COVID-19 tests administered on campus since December 19, 2020, for faculty, staff, and students.

- Mindful of Penn State's close connection to the communities it serves, [University Park leaders are meeting with local authorities](#) to share the planned return of students, the University's testing and contact tracing strategies, and other potential questions from the community at large.
- As part of a video series where Penn State faculty experts help educate the community on the latest information related to the COVID-19 vaccine, Bernice Hausman, professor of humanities and public health sciences, explains that [vaccine hesitancy is not new](#).
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, new legislation permits employers to allow [employees more flexibility in how they utilize unused 2020 and 2021 Health Care and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account \(FSA\) monies](#).

## WEBINARS

- **Academic Support Resources at Penn State:** Monday, February 15, [12:00-12:30 p.m.](#) and [2:00-2:30 p.m.](#)
- **Engaging Students in a Multi-Audience Classroom via Active Learning:** Thursday, February 18, [1:00-3:00 p.m.](#)
- **Addressing Intersectionality to Transform Leadership at Penn State:** Friday, February 19, 2:00-5:00 p.m. and Friday, February 26, 2:00-5:00 p.m., via Zoom. Interested parties can register via this [Zoom Meeting Registration form](#).

**Who should attend:** All academic leaders and faculty interested in academic leadership who seek to broaden and deepen their understanding of intersectionality and its relationships to leadership within academia.

**Symposium Topic:** We will engage in interdisciplinary dialogue within our Penn State community in order to build understanding of the effects of intersectionality on success and leadership in academia with the goal of identifying pathways for transformational action and informing future initiatives.

**Who we are:** LEAADS@PSU is a network of women faculty committed to **LE**ading **A**dvocacy and **A**ction for **D**iverse **L**eaders**S**hip at Penn State. We are exploring and acting on issues that impact willingness and preparedness of faculty to engage in leadership.

## KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY

- A new survey, published by Penn State's Teaching and Learning with Technology, aims to gather feedback from faculty and students about their respective [experiences with remote and hybrid education](#).
- The Testing and Surveillance Center (TASC) will start providing [in-house diagnostic COVID-19 testing at the University Park campus](#).
- New resources are available regarding [use of webcams](#), [class recording guidelines](#), and [use of screenshots and recorded classes in social media](#).
- During the first two weeks of in-person learning (Feb. 15 to Feb. 26), [Penn State will conduct universal COVID-19 testing](#) of all students who are taking in-person classes or who are taking a fully remote or online course load while living in Centre County or within a 20-mile radius of a Penn State campus.
- Guided by health and safety, Penn State has developed a [phased plan to restore in-person student experiences](#) and steadily expand organized activities across its campuses as circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic allow.
- To help with integrating academic integrity in your remote and online courses, a new student-oriented module has been created for you to easily import into your Canvas site via Canvas Commons. This module provides students direct access to resources that explain what academic integrity is and why it is important. An online quiz is also integrated, which can be used to quickly assess whether your students have a basic understanding of academic integrity. Individual colleges or campuses may tailor this generic module to address specific needs. We hope you'll take advantage of these resources as you navigate teaching remotely. Information on accessing the module can be found on the [Keep Teaching Academic Integrity site](#).
- Walk-up COVID-19 testing hours at the University Park campus will be extended in the coming weeks.
  - Week of Feb. 15 and onward: Walk-up testing at the Hintz Family Alumni Center will be available Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  - Beginning Feb.15, employees and students will have separate entrances and separate queues.

This walk-up testing is available to employees who are in the Return to Work database at University Park. Employees in that database also continue to have the option to do the opt-in mail kit testing.

- To accommodate the many vehicles arriving on campus during the spring semester student arrival period, [parking adjustments will be in place](#) beginning Tuesday, February 9 through Sunday, February 14 at University Park.

- In Pennsylvania, the state Department of Health and county health departments are responsible for [COVID-19 vaccine distribution](#), which is being done in a phased approach with health care workers and those in long-term care facilities in the initial phase (Phase 1A). At this time Penn State is not a point of distribution for the vaccine, but has a comprehensive plan developed for how the University could quickly activate should this change. In the meantime, those that are eligible are strongly urged to sign up as soon as possible. Faculty, staff, and students should visit [Pennsylvania's vaccine website](#) for information on when they may be eligible to receive a vaccine and where those vaccines may be available in their communities.
- [Faculty can still submit questions](#) related to Penn State's COVID response. Questions may be submitted [here](#).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, please review:**

- The University's comprehensive resources on its ["Back to State" page](#) and [updated FAQs](#) regarding on-campus work and learning
- Penn State's ["Keep Teaching"](#) and ["Keep Learning"](#) websites, including many [Spring 2021 instruction-related FAQs](#)
- Penn State's [COVID-19 dashboard](#)
- Previous issues of this [Digest](#)
- The online archive of [video messages](#) from Penn State leaders and experts
- The [Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site](#) and ["Return to Work on Campus"](#) resource site
- The ["University Measures" webpage](#), which summarizes steps Penn State is taking in response to COVID-19
- The University's [health information page focused on personal safety practices](#) for individuals at all campuses
- A robust, updated [list of contacts and resources](#) for the University community
- The Social Science Research Institute [website featuring pandemic-related insights from University experts](#) and other resources