

Tuesday, March 30, 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.

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.
- [Wednesday's spring webcast with President Eric Barron](#) will focus on topics affecting employees. Joining Barron will be Lorraine Goffe, vice president for Human Resources and chief human resources officer, and Kelly Wolgast, director of the COVID-19 Operations Control Center. The livestream can be viewed online at <https://liveevents.psu.edu> beginning at 3:30 p.m.
- [Students who completed quarantine and isolation at University Park are being surveyed](#) to collect feedback about their experiences.
- Over the past year, the [Manufacturing and Sterilization to Address COVID-10 \(MASC\) Initiative](#) has mobilized to protect health care providers and communities across Pennsylvania.
- [Spring 2021 Holiday/Special Events Testing Schedule](#)
 - Friday, April 2: no random testing (all campuses); one walk-up testing site open (Pegula Ice Arena).
 - Saturday, April 3: no random testing (all campuses); no walk-up testing.
 - Saturday, April 17: no testing at Pegula Ice Arena or Beaver Stadium (Hintz Family Alumni Center and 101 N. Atherton St. open as usual for walk-up and random testing, respectively); testing at the Commonwealth Campuses remains unchanged.
 - Friday, May 7: no random testing (all campuses); one walk-up testing site open (Pegula Ice Arena).
 - Saturday, May 8: no random testing (all campuses); no walk-up testing.

WEBINARS

- **Plans to Support Residential Students Who Cannot Return in Fall 2021:**
Tuesday, April 6, [12:00-1:00 p.m.](#)

KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY

- April 1 is the deadline for tenure-line faculty in the penultimate year of their probationary period to accept a one-year extension to their probationary period due to COVID-19. By completing the online form "[Confirmation of Extension of the Probationary Period Due to COVID-19](#)," the faculty member's probationary period will be extended by one year. Detailed information is available [here](#).
- Penn State and local leaders today appealed to students and local residents to [redouble their safety efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus](#).
- Penn State held a [livestream event for accepted students](#) and their families considering applying to Penn State, "[Class of 2025: A Virtual 'Welcome to the Penn State Community'](#)," on March 25.
- In support of the "Mask Up or Pack Up" campaign, [frontline healthcare workers share advice on staying vigilant](#) and how everyone can do their part to help protect the Penn State community.
- University Park students are urged to [take advantage of walk-up COVID-19 testing on campus](#) if they are concerned that they may have been exposed.
- Walk-up COVID-19 testing hours at the University Park campus will continue as follows:
 - Walk-up testing at the Hintz Family Alumni Center will be available Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 - Testing availability will change on the dates listed in "Latest News". More information is available [here](#).

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.

- [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