

**Tuesday, April 6, 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.

### **QUESTION FROM FACULTY**

**Q: *When am I eligible to get a vaccine?***

**A:** Pennsylvania is currently in Phase 1B of the vaccine rollout. Those in 1B include faculty and staff members who are in contact with students as a condition of their employment and both undergraduate and graduate students who are in contact with other students while providing instructional, health-related or other services (including residence life) on behalf of the University. Phase 1C, which opens April 12, includes essential workers in a variety of sectors, including transportation, food service, finance, IT, energy, and public health. On April 19, all individuals 16 and older will be eligible. More information is available on [Penn State's vaccine page](#) and on the [Pennsylvania Department of Health website](#).

### **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.
- A team including researchers from Penn State has found that approximately [40,000 children in the U.S. may have lost a parent to COVID-19](#) since February 2020.
- Information about the third and final Wellness Day is available at [wellnessdays.psu.edu](#). [Programming on April 7 will focus on physical and environmental wellness](#).

### **WEBINARS**

- **Wellness through Zoom Games and Improv:** Wednesday, April 7, [9:00-10:00 a.m.](#)

### **KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY**

- [Penn State is strongly encouraging all students, faculty, and staff to sign up to get a vaccine as soon as they are eligible to receive one](#). Phase 2, which extends vaccine eligibility to all Pennsylvanians age 16 or older, will begin on April 19.
- President Eric Barron and guests [answered an array of questions from Penn State faculty and staff during a livestream about the University's response to the coronavirus](#), employees returning to work on campus, health and safety of the community, and others topics related to the pandemic.
- Physicians at Penn State Health urge people to [continue to wear a mask and follow other COVID mitigation guidelines](#), even if they have been vaccinated.
- [Spring 2021 Holiday/Special Events Testing Schedule](#)
  - 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.
- 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 above. 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