**Friday, May 21, 2021**

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

This weekly email is designed to provide faculty and instructors with Penn State’s pandemic-related news and updates. Watch for these emails on Fridays, with additional “special editions” delivered periodically. Previous faculty news digests are [archived here](https://vpfa.psu.edu/academicaffairs/penn-state-pandemic-news-digest-archive/). For current faculty guidance, resources, FAQ documents, and more visit the [“Back to State Info for Faculty”](https://www.vpfa.psu.edu/back-to-state-fall-2020-resources/) webpage.

**LATEST NEWS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACULTY**

* Penn State’s [COVID-19 Dashboard](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/covid-19-dashboard/) shows ongoing results for all COVID-19 tests administered on campus since December 19, 2020, for faculty, staff, and students.
* At a special meeting on May 12, the [Faculty Senate passed a nonbinding COVID-19 vaccine resolution](https://news.psu.edu/story/658931/2021/05/14/administration/faculty-senate-passes-covid-19-resolution-letter-board) as well as a letter addressed to the Board of Trustees related to the Next Gen Penn State and search process to find the University’s next president.
* A new study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health found that [1 in 6 parents first allowed their adolescent children to have an alcoholic drink](https://news.psu.edu/story/658440/2021/05/10/research/are-more-parents-letting-their-teens-drink-during-pandemic) with their families during the COVID-19 shutdown.
* According to Penn State College of Medicine researchers, <https://news.psu.edu/story/643864/2021/05/18/research/sufficient-knowledge-sense-information-overload-evident-early>, but were overwhelmed with worries about mixed messages and distrust of some sources.
* A Penn State course, [PHP 597, “Vaccines, Immunity, and Homeland Security: Case Study of the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic](https://news.psu.edu/story/659224/2021/05/18/students-working-during-covid-pandemic-got-study-vaccine-real-time),” gave students the chance to learn the science of the vaccine in real time.
* Students in Penn State College of Medicine support Penn State’s vaccination efforts via a [student vaccine task force](https://news.psu.edu/story/659429/2021/05/20/college-medicine-students-vital-penn-state-health-vaccination-efforts) whose members answer questions, monitor patients, and give vaccine doses.

**KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY**

* Penn State is [currently evaluating the new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and update from the Pennsylvania Department of Health regarding masking](https://news.psu.edu/story/659019/2021/05/14/administration/current-masking-and-physical-distancing-guidance-remain) for fully vaccinated individuals and will provide additional guidance to the University community. While the review is underway, masking and physical distancing is expected by all individuals — regardless of vaccination status — inside Penn State campus buildings and on public transportation across all campuses.
* Penn State’s COVID-19 Operations Control Center has announced the [schedule for drop-in COVID-19 testing](https://news.psu.edu/story/658292/2021/05/10/campus-life/summer-drop-covid-19-testing-schedule-announced-university-park) at University Park through late June.
* In a new study, Penn State College of Medicine researchers found that [people living with HIV had a 24% higher risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection](https://news.psu.edu/story/657808/2021/05/11/research/people-living-hiv-more-likely-get-sick-die-covid-19) and a 78% higher risk of death from COVID-19 than people without HIV.
* A recent survey by the Center for Survey Research at Penn State Harrisburg’s Institute of State and Regional Affairs found that [many Pennsylvanians are “vaccine hesitant.”](https://news.psu.edu/story/658545/2021/05/11/research/one-quarter-pennsylvanians-may-not-get-coronavirus-vaccine-survey)
* Penn State’s COVID-19 Operations Control Center (COCC) has developed a [comprehensive COVID-19 mitigation strategy for the transitional month of May and the summer 2021 semester for all campuses](https://news.psu.edu/story/657819/2021/05/06/health-and-safety/penn-state-details-may-and-summer-semester-covid-19) that includes vaccine consideration, masking, testing, contact tracing, and quarantine and isolation.
* The [Regional Vaccination Clinic at the Bryce Jordan Center has resumed operations as scheduled on Thursday, May 6](https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/pema-details.aspx?newsid=172), offering both the two-dose Moderna vaccine and the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Starting May 13, the clinic will only offer the second dose of Moderna and the single dose J&J vaccine.
* 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. 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.
* [Faculty can still submit questions](https://news.psu.edu/story/628322/2020/08/13/academics/penn-state-faculty-can-still-submit-questions-about-return) related to Penn State’s COVID response. Questions may be submitted [here](https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2Fe%2F1FAIpQLSdLJXKUWNxbcqBGf_NJ7x0734cy_GId-aIoiCNYpWPjXAEGsw%2Fviewform&data=02%7C01%7Cagc105%40psu.edu%7C8f277042fb7643a099cd08d86193f571%7C7cf48d453ddb4389a9c1c115526eb52e%7C0%7C0%7C637366635386023185&sdata=4wZ4CcAqoTh1WtIYTtTFGrM%2FfDae7jJurTnlT5C22KQ%3D&reserved=0).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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

* The University’s comprehensive resources on its [“University Status” page](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/university-status/) and [updated FAQs](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/faq/topic/latest-updates) regarding **on-campus work and learning**
* Penn State’s [“Keep Teaching”](https://keepteaching.psu.edu/) and [“Keep Learning”](https://keeplearning.psu.edu/) websites, including many [Spring 2021 instruction-related FAQs](https://keepteaching.psu.edu/frequently-asked-questions/)
* Penn State’s [COVID-19 dashboard](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/covid-19-dashboard)
* Previous issues of this [Digest](https://www.vpfa.psu.edu/penn-state-pandemic-news-digest-archive/)
* The online archive of [video messages](https://www.vpfa.psu.edu/video-messages-fall-2020-preparations/) from Penn State leaders and experts
* The [Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site](https://hr.psu.edu/covid-19-coronavirus) and [“Return to Work on Campus”](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 individuals at all campuses
* A robust, updated[list of contacts and resources](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/contacts-and-resources-for-penn-staters/)for the University community
* The Social Science Research Institute [website featuring pandemic-related insights from University experts](https://covid-19.ssri.psu.edu/) and other resources