

**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](#). 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.
- At a special meeting on May 12, the [Faculty Senate passed a nonbinding COVID-19 vaccine resolution](#) 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](#) 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,"](#) 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](#) 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](#) 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](#) 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](#) 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."](#)
- 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](#) 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](#), 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](#) 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 ["University Status" 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’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