

Friday, June 4, 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.

FEATURED NEWS – SHARE YOUR VACCINATION STATUS

Penn State is strongly encouraging students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and to [share their vaccination status with the University](#) after they receive their final dose. Data on vaccination rates are needed to inform the University's decision-making and its COVID-19 management plan. With this information, University officials will be able to better assess vaccination rates and modify approaches, if needed. Employees can provide their vaccination status using [SalesForce Health Cloud](#), a secure online platform for collecting health data.

The University is offering a number of incentives to students, faculty and staff who receive a vaccine and upload their vaccination status. It's important to note that all students and employees at all campuses who are already vaccinated for COVID-19 — not just those who get a vaccine in the future — and share their vaccine status with the University will be eligible. Each week, drawings will be held for the following prizes (subject to taxes for employees):

- \$1,000 payment
- \$100 gift card to Barnes & Noble (four winners per week)
- a football signed by Penn State Football coach James Franklin

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.
- Penn State has announced [plans to transition its masking and physical distancing requirements](#) to more closely align with changes recently announced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Current masking and distancing measures will remain in place through Summer Session I. After June 28, fully vaccinated individuals at Penn State will no longer be required to wear face masks indoors, and the physical distancing and outdoor masking requirements will be lifted for all individuals.

- The COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Bryce Jordan Center will conclude on June 14.
- Penn State's COVID-19 Operations Control Center has announced the [schedule for drop-in COVID-19 testing](#) at University Park through late June. As of June 1, the Hintz Family Alumni Center location has closed; Pegula Ice Arena is the only location at University Park for walk-up testing.
- The [experimental drug TEMPOL may be a promising oral antiviral treatment for COVID-19](#), according to a new study of cell cultures by a team of researchers that includes Penn State scientists.

KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY

- Recognizing that travel presents additional risks for being exposed to and spreading COVID-19, Penn State has updated its travel guidance to address [vaccination requirements for employees on University-funded travel](#).
- A project spearheaded by Penn State Extension [addresses vaccine hesitancy in Pennsylvania](#), with a particular focus on the Latino population and senior citizens in rural communities.
- In The Medical Minute, Penn State Health providers discuss whether [regular physical activity can help people lessen the impact of viruses like COVID-19](#).
- The Data 4 Action project, which documents the impacts of COVID-19 in Centre County, is also [providing new and impactful opportunities for a growing group of students](#) working as research assistants.
- [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