

**Friday, June 18, 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.

### **QUESTION FROM FACULTY**

**Q: *Should I get vaccinated if I've already had COVID-19?***

**A:** As part of Penn State's "COVID-19 Vaccines: Asked & Answered" series, Matthew Ferrari, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics, explains that new research suggests that getting vaccinated after recovering from COVID-19 [provides stronger and longer-lasting combined protection](#) against future infections than from antibodies generated in response to infection alone.

### **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 is continuing to [encourage students and employees to share their coronavirus vaccination status](#) to help inform the University's decision-making and its COVID-19 management plan. Employees can provide their vaccination status using [SalesForce Health Cloud](#), a secure online platform.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, [essential workers tweeted less often than general users about COVID-19 but more about overall mental health issues](#), according to researchers in the College of Information Sciences and Technology.
- According to Dr. Patrick Gavigan, pediatric infectious disease physician at Penn State Children's Hospital, [data suggests that vaccinated people are less likely to transmit the virus, but the risk is still not zero](#).

### **KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY**

- The deadline to submit a faculty work adjustment request for fall 2021 is July 15. A document and request form are available at <https://www.vpfa.psu.edu/back-to-state-spring-2021-resources/> under the "Instructional Guidance" header.

- University Health Services will host [two COVID-19 vaccine clinics for all students](#), with the exception of World Campus students, at the end of June.
- Penn State students in need of financial assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic [can now apply for emergency aid in a second round of funding](#) from the University's federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II allocation.
- 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.
- 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.
- [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