

Friday, June 25, 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: *What can we do until all children can get the vaccine?*

A: As part of Penn State's "COVID-19 Vaccines: Asked and Answered" series, Dr. Patrick Gavigan, pediatric infectious disease specialist at Penn State Children's Hospital, shared that [kids under 12 should wear masks](#) when they are near each other and in large groups – especially indoors.

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.
- The COVID test site at Pegula Ice Arena [will be open from noon to 3 p.m. on June 26 and 27](#) to accommodate students living in residence halls who have been directed to test and any other student living on or near campus who wants to get tested. Regular drop-in testing is available at Pegula Ice Arena from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Researchers who are part of the Centre County COVID-19 Data 4 Action Project found that even though the student positivity rate was high during the fall semester of 2020, [the positivity rate among nonstudent residents remained stable](#).

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.
- 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.

- 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 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