**Friday, September 24, 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 2021 Resources”](https://vpfa.psu.edu/back-to-state-2021-resources/) webpage.

**QUESTION FROM FACULTY**

**Q: *What do I do if a student in my class has been placed on interim suspension due to noncompliance with the University’s required weekly testing?***

**A:** University Park faculty and instructors received a [letter](https://keepteaching.psu.edu/information-for-university-park-instructors-regarding-interim-suspensions/) from Executive Vice President and Provost Nick Jones about students who have been placed on interim suspension due to failure to comply with the University’s required weekly COVID-19 testing. The letter describes the consequences for students on interim suspension and how faculty and instructors should handle those students’ absences.

**LATEST NEWS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACULTY**

* University Park students who are subject to required weekly COVID-19 testing and who have missed at least three weeks of testing have been notified that they are out of compliance with the University’s health and safety policies and [have been placed on interim suspension](https://news.psu.edu/story/670171/2021/09/21/campus-life/university-park-students-not-complying-testing-placed-interim) through the Office of Student Conduct.
* The [COVID-19 testing site at Pegula Ice Arena closed](https://news.psu.edu/story/670178/2021/09/21/pegula-covid-19-testing-site-close) on Wednesday, September 22. COVID-19 testing at White Building is available from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays through Fridays for students living on or near the University Park campus, and faculty and staff who are working on campus.
* University Park employees who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should use [this document](https://hr.psu.edu/sites/hr/files/UniversityParkCOVID-19TestingResources.pdf) to identify a testing site in the community.
* Penn State’s [COVID-19 Dashboard](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/covid-19-dashboard/) will be updated [twice weekly](https://news.psu.edu/story/666726/2021/08/20/campus-life/covid-19-dashboard-be-updated-twice-weekly-during-fall-semester), on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during the fall semester.
* [Penn State and Centre Volunteers in Medicine will host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic](https://news.psu.edu/story/669979/2021/09/20/campus-life/penn-state-cvim-host-vaccine-clinic-sept-25-football-game) at University Park on September 25 prior to the Penn State-Villanova game.

**KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY**

* This [graphic](https://sites.psu.edu/academicaffairs/files/2021/09/What-to-do-if-a-student-is-in-isolation-V2.jpg) was created by Denise Solomon, head of the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, and was recently updated in collaboration with Penn State Contact Tracing. It is a clear representation of what faculty may do to assist the contact tracing process and their students.
* The U.S. Department of State is warning that passport processing times are taking, on average, 12 to 18 weeks, not including mailing time. More information is available [here](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html). Education Abroad is advising students that if they are planning to study abroad in spring semester, they must [apply for a passport](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftravel.state.gov%2Fcontent%2Ftravel%2Fen%2Fpassports%2Fhow-apply.html&data=04%7C01%7Cagc105%40psu.edu%7Cf224fd51b7ba455a4e6108d9778de81b%7C7cf48d453ddb4389a9c1c115526eb52e%7C0%7C0%7C637672273623610046%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nAQyY22R8KLoZA%2FBen61nkjjcTVA6zlzDVYtkkSp3es%3D&reserved=0) *immediately* and through the *expedited process*.
* COVID-19 [vaccination data for all Penn State campuses](https://news.psu.edu/story/669259/2021/09/14/campus-life/campus-specific-vaccination-data-now-available-covid-19) is now available on the University’s COVID-19 dashboard.
* Penn State Health is once again making a [public COVID-19 dashboard available on its website](https://news.psu.edu/story/669059/2021/09/13/penn-state-health-provides-patient-data-covid-19-dashboard). The dashboard includes vital information from each of its acute care hospitals. Statistics include total number of adult and pediatric COVID-19 inpatients, number of patients requiring intensive care unit care, and patient vaccination status.
* Penn State is continuing to [encourage students and employees to share their coronavirus vaccination status](https://news.psu.edu/story/661579/2021/06/15/campus-life/students-employees-strongly-encouraged-share-their-vaccination) to help inform the University’s decision-making and its COVID-19 management plan. Employees can provide their vaccination status using [SalesForce Health Cloud](http://psu-healthcloud.force.com/vaccine/login), a secure online platform.
* [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 [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 [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