

Friday, October 22, 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 2021 Resources"](#) webpage.

LATEST NEWS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACULTY

- Faculty and staff at Penn State campuses where they are required to be vaccinated for COVID-19 [can now upload their proof of vaccination online](#) and are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Faculty and instructors who are unsure if they have submitted proof of vaccination can check their status on the University's [Salesforce Health Cloud](#).
- The White Building COVID-19 testing site will [close at 4:30 p.m. on Friday](#), October 22 due to road closures for the Homecoming parade.
- All faculty and staff at Penn State locations where work is being conducted under federal contracts are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by December 8. This requirement affects [employees at University Park, Altoona, Behrend, Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette, and Harrisburg](#).
- Guidance has been updated and released to inform faculty and instructors of on-campus work expectations and the [work adjustments process](#) for spring 2022. A document describing the work adjustment process and criteria is available [here](#). Faculty with an approved work adjustment for fall 2021 may apply for an extension of their work adjustment to spring 2022 [here](#). The form for faculty who do not currently have a work adjustment, but who want to request one for spring 2022, is available [here](#). The deadline to apply for a spring semester work adjustment is October 29.
- Penn State researchers plan to develop an affordable and accurate [at-home, saliva-based COVID-19 test](#).
- Penn State's [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) will be updated [twice weekly](#), on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during the fall semester.

KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY

- In compliance with President Biden's executive order requiring COVID-19 vaccination for all federal employees, contractors, and others, Penn State has

determined that [all University Park faculty and staff must submit proof that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by December 8.](#)

- Penn State will [award \\$50 million in emergency relief](#) to help students enrolled during the fall 2021 semester to cover any component of their cost of attendance or other emergency expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [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 (except Friday, October 22, when the site is closing at 4:30 p.m. due to the Homecoming Parade).
- [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 [instruction-related FAQs](#)
- Penn State's [COVID-19 dashboard](#)
- Previous issues of this [Digest](#)
- 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