Friday, October 29, 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.

QUESTIONS FROM FACULTY:

Q: How do I share proof of vaccination with the University?

A: Employees who perform work at or with the following campuses must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and share proof of their vaccination with the University by December 8: Altoona, Behrend, Berks, Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette, Harrisburg, Schuylkill, all Penn State Extension employees across the commonwealth and University Park. Proof of vaccination must be uploaded into the University’s Salesforce Health Cloud, a secure online platform for collecting health data.

Q: How can I check to see if I uploaded proof of vaccination?

A: Faculty and instructors can also check to see if they have uploaded proof of vaccination using Salesforce Health Cloud. Read the full FAQ here.

VACCINATION MANDATE RESOURCES

Information about the vaccination requirement for employees at University Park, Altoona, Behrend, Berks, Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette, Harrisburg, Schuylkill, and all Penn State Extension employees across the commonwealth is available here.

Apply for a religious accommodation at https://affirmativeaction.psu.edu/covid-19-information/. More information is available here.

Apply for a medical/disability-based accommodation at https://hr.psu.edu/sites/hr/files/COVID19MedicalDisabilityAccommodationRequestForm.pdf. More information is available here.

Information on where to find a vaccine provider can be found here.

Information about how to upload proof of vaccination to Salesforce Health Cloud is available here. Faculty and instructors who are unsure if they have submitted proof of vaccination can check their status on the University's Salesforce Health Cloud.

LATEST NEWS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACULTY
• The University shared information for employees about the process to request medical/disability-based COVID-19 vaccine accommodations.

• COVID-19 vaccine requirement expands to two additional campuses – Berks and Schuylkill – and to all Penn State Extension employees across the commonwealth.

• The 2021 December break is extended in appreciation of employee contributions during the past two years to safeguard the health of the Penn State community, advance the University’s strategic goals, and serve the community with excellence.

• The deadline to apply for a work adjustment for spring 2022 is today (Friday, October 29). See the following:
  o Article about work adjustments process
  o Document describing the work adjustments process
  o Form to apply for a work adjustment extension (fall 2021 approved work adjustment recipients only)
  o Form to apply for a new spring 2022 work adjustment (for those without a fall 2021 work adjustment)

• Penn State researchers use traffic and mobile phone data to predict COVID case counts in rural Pennsylvania.

• Penn State’s COVID-19 Dashboard will be updated twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during the fall semester.

KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY

• 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. Testing at the White Building will close at 4pm on Sunday, October 31, 2021.

• 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