**Friday, November 5, 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: *I’m confident I uploaded my vaccine card. Do I really need to check?***

**A:** Yes! Even if you’re fairly certain that you uploaded your vaccine card to Salesforce, please check to be sure by visiting [Salesforce Health Cloud](https://psu-healthcloud.force.com/vaccine/s/vaccineimageupload). If you do not have a vaccine card uploaded into Salesforce, you will be considered out of compliance with the vaccine mandate.

**LATEST NEWS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACULTY**

* Penn State has determined that the COVID-19 vaccination mandate already in place at seven campuses must be [extended to the Berks and Schuylkill campuses](https://www.psu.edu/news/campus-life/story/covid-19-vaccine-requirement-expands-two-more-campuses-penn-state-extension/) and to [the College of Medicine](https://www.psu.edu/news/campus-life/story/covid-19-vaccine-requirement-expands-college-medicine/) because of work being conducted under federal contracts and agreements. Proof of vaccination must be uploaded into the University’s [Salesforce Health Cloud](https://psu-healthcloud.force.com/vaccine/s/vaccineimageupload), a secure online platform for collecting health data. Faculty and instructors can also check to see if they have uploaded proof of vaccination using Salesforce Health Cloud.
* Penn State Health will [comply with President Joe Biden’s COVID-19 Action Plan mandating vaccination](https://www.psu.edu/news/hershey/story/penn-state-health-comply-federal-vaccine-mandate/) as a condition of employment for federal contractors.

* [Strategically increasing testing capacity](https://www.psu.edu/news/story/more-strategic-covid-19-testing-could-prevent-distancing-and-shutdowns/), either by making diagnostic tests faster or more available, can reduce reliance on costly preventative interventions, such as distancing and shutdowns, according to a team of researchers led by Penn State.
* More than 80% of the white-tailed deer sampled in different parts of Iowa between December 2020 and January 2021 [tested positive for SARS-CoV-2](https://www.psu.edu/news/research/story/deer-may-be-reservoir-sars-cov-2-study-finds/).
* 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.

**VACCINATION MANDATE RESOURCES**

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, the College of Medicine, all Penn State Extension employees across the commonwealth, and University Park. Information about the vaccination requirement is available [here](https://www.psu.edu/news/campus-life/story/covid-19-vaccine-requirement-expands-two-more-campuses-penn-state-extension/) and [here](https://www.psu.edu/news/campus-life/story/covid-19-vaccine-requirement-expands-college-medicine/).

Apply for a religious accommodation at <https://affirmativeaction.psu.edu/covid-19-information/>. More information is available [here](https://news.psu.edu/story/673976/2021/10/25/process-request-religious-accommodations-vaccine-mandate-now-available).

Apply for a medical/disability-based accommodation at <https://hr.psu.edu/sites/hr/files/COVID19MedicalDisabilityAccommodationRequestForm.pdf>. More information is available [here](https://www.psu.edu/news/story/process-request-medical-disability-vaccine-mandate-accommodations-now-open/).

Information on where to find a vaccine provider can be found [here](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/vaccine-information/#palocations).

**KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY**

* The [2021 December break is extended](https://www.psu.edu/news/human-resources/story/2021-december-break-extended-full-time-employees/?utm_audience=Combined&utm_source=newswire&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Penn%20State%20Today&utm_content=10-28-2021-21-38&utm_term=featured) 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.
* [COVID-19 testing at White Building](https://news.psu.edu/story/670178/2021/09/21/pegula-covid-19-testing-site-close) 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.
* [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