

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](#). For current faculty guidance, resources, FAQ documents, and more, visit the ["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](#). 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](#) and to [the College of Medicine](#) because of work being conducted under federal contracts and agreements. Proof of vaccination must be uploaded into the University's [Salesforce Health Cloud](#), 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](#) as a condition of employment for federal contractors.
- [Strategically increasing testing capacity](#), 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](#).
- Penn State's [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) will be updated [twice weekly](#), 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](#) and [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](#).

KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY

- 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.
- [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.
- [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