

**Friday, March 18, 2022**

## **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 2021-2022 Resources"](#) webpage.

### **PUBLICATION NOTE**

Throughout the pandemic, this Digest has been a means to communicate with faculty about pandemic-related items of importance. As COVID cases continue to decline, we find that we have less and less COVID news to share. We are pleased to announce that we plan to continue to publish this Digest periodically in order to communicate with you about news and items of interest to faculty. Undoubtedly you will find COVID news in this Digest from time to time, but you'll also find news about our faculty and resources to promote your success. You will notice changes to this Digest as we begin this transition.

### **LATEST NEWS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACULTY**

- April 1 is the deadline for tenure-line faculty in the penultimate year of their probationary period to accept a one-year extension to their probationary period due to COVID-19. By completing the online form "[Confirmation of Extension of the Probationary Period Due to COVID-19](#)," the faculty member's probationary period will be extended by one year. Detailed information is available [here](#).
- Faculty, staff, and academic administrators should have received an email on Wednesday, March 16 inviting them to participate in the AC14 annual review of academic administrators. You are invited to provide feedback to academic administrators in your unit with whom you have had the opportunity to work in the past year. More information about this process is available at <https://www.vpfa.psu.edu/academic-administrative-evaluation-policy-ac14/>.
- Penn State students in need of financial assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic can now apply for a [spring 2022 American Rescue Plan student emergency grant](#) from the University's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) III allocation.
- "Tips for Writing a Narrative Statement," the final workshop in the four-part [Promotion and Tenure Workshop Series](#) offered by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, will be held on Thursday, March 24 from 2-3 p.m. via Zoom.
- Sandeep Krishnakumar, doctoral candidate in industrial engineering, and a team investigated the [experience of first-year engineering students during the shift to online learning](#) and its effect on their capacity to thrive.

## KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY

- With cases of COVID-19 declining on Penn State campuses and across the state and nation, University officials are [adjusting Penn State's indoor masking policy](#) to no longer require face masks be worn in many indoor common spaces on campuses in counties designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to have low or medium [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) beginning Monday, March 7. Based on the new CDC guidance, at this time, all Penn State campuses except for the College of Medicine will adjust their masking requirements.
- For COVID testing locations and hours, visit <https://virusinfo.psu.edu/testing-support/>.
- This [article](#) contains a list of COVID-19-related resources for employees.
- [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