

**Friday, May 8, 2020**

## **News Digest: Penn State and the COVID-19 Crisis**

This email provides a high-level overview of University pandemic-related news and updates during the past week. Please review and forward this weekly news digest to colleagues to keep them informed of recent developments.

- Penn State will hold its [spring 2020 commencement ceremony via livestream Saturday at 2 p.m. EDT](https://spring2020.commencement.psu.edu/) to recognize all undergraduate students at University Park and the Commonwealth Campuses and all graduate students in The Graduate School who are receiving their degrees. The virtual ceremony will be viewable at <https://spring2020.commencement.psu.edu/>.
- Penn State announced that [telecommuting employees should continue to work remotely through May 31](#). Questions about this and the university's plans for summer and fall 2020 were covered in [updated online FAQs](#).
- During today's Board of Trustees meeting, President Barron delivered a [presentation on Penn State's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#). During that meeting, the Board approved a plan to [adjust tuition schedules for the summer 2020 semester](#) and an [interim budget for 2020-2021](#).
- President Barron will host a [virtual Town Hall at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19](#), to answer questions about how Penn State continues to manage the pandemic's impacts, including workforce changes, plans for summer, and the work of three new task groups.
- The Penn State IT Accessibility Team has [additional resources for faculty related to accessibility and remote learning](#).
- On May 6, Penn State Student Affairs [began hosting virtual office hours](#) to answer students' questions and address concerns they may have during the remote-learning period.
- Students will have until 11:59 p.m. EDT, May 29, to [make their decisions regarding optional alternative grading](#) via the Alternative Grade Calculator and Request Tool, which will go live on May 20, after grades are finalized.
- Penn State officials and student leaders [discouraged visits to campus](#) due to COVID-19, with more signs and social-distancing guidance posted near campus landmarks.
- As the pandemic places many Penn State students and their families under economic pressure, the [Complete Penn State program](#) is extending financial lifelines to seniors.

**To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, visit:**

- The University's official [COVID-19 information site](#) and [FAQ page](#)  
(Note: The most recent FAQ updates are provided [here](#))
- The "[University Measures](#)" [webpage](#), which summarizes steps Penn State is taking in response to COVID-19.
- The [Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site](#)
- A robust [list of contacts and resources](#) for the University community
- The University websites dedicated to remote [teaching](#) and [learning](#)