

Friday, May 15, 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 is canceling, rescheduling, or moving to virtual delivery all nonessential events and meetings [through at least June 30](#) at all university campuses. Any essential in-person meetings or events must have fewer than 10 attendees and maintain good social distancing practices, with all staff and participants wearing face masks.
- More than 25,000 Penn State students will receive [cash grants of up to \\$1,000 each](#) in an initial round of funding from the university's share of the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.
- Penn State announced plans and procedures for [students to move out of campus residence halls](#). Also, in collaboration with the Centre Region of Council of Governments and State College Borough, Penn State sent a [letter](#) to University Park students offering safety guidance for moving out of off-campus residences.
- [New default security settings for all university Zoom users](#) took effect Monday, May 11. Review the full list of setting changes, a screencast, and other resources on the new [Zoom Security webpage](#).
- Undergraduate Admissions announced details of its [new "Flex Start" program](#), which offers students the flexibility to change their first-year campus of admission.
- On Thursday, Penn State held the first event in its series — [Class of 2024: A Virtual "Welcome to the Penn State Community,"](#) consisting of four livestream Q&A sessions with students, alumni, faculty, and members of Penn State's leadership team. The archived live event can be viewed at [Classof2024.psu.edu](#).
- University Libraries provided [guidance for borrowers, including recent graduates, on returning checked-out books and other items](#), such as rented multimedia equipment.
- **REMINDER:** President Barron will host a [virtual Town Hall at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19](#), about how Penn State continues to manage the pandemic's impacts. The hourlong event (to be livestreamed at <https://liveevents.psu.edu/>) will include Provost Jones and key faculty and administrative leaders involved in planning the university's return to work and learning strategies.

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](#)