**Friday, May 22, 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 it to colleagues in your units.

* Penn State task groups are continuing [preparations for a coordinated phased return to on-campus working, learning, and living](https://news.psu.edu/story/620366/2020/05/17/administration/preparations-and-scenario-planning-continue-return-campus-and) for students and employees at each of the University’s campuses. To support health and safety, University task groups are preparing for several potential scenarios and challenges.
* Penn State's [Return to Work Task Group has created an authorization form](https://news.psu.edu/story/620875/2020/05/21/key-materials-created-control-phased-return-mission-critical-functions) for unit leads to fill out and request to have employees on site at any campus.
* The recently launched [“Back to State” website](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/back-to-state/) focuses on the University’s fall 2020 planning efforts and provides an abundance of information and hyperlinked resources for students, faculty, and staff.
* Penn State employees received a [Return to Work survey](https://news.psu.edu/story/620799/2020/05/20/return-work-survey-being-sent-penn-state-employees-week) this week. University leaders are using the survey to solicit faculty and staff feedback about resuming on-campus work.
* The virtual Town Hall held May 19 is now [available for viewing online](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvGHkpO6AG0&feature=youtu.be). Viewers are encouraged to [fill out a survey about the event](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a3PJScIkAvSHoqh), during which President Barron and other University leaders discussed Penn State’s path forward as it continues to address the pandemic’s impacts.
* The University shared an update on [employee parking and recreation fees](https://news.psu.edu/story/620499/2020/05/18/administration/penn-state-shares-update-employee-parking-recreation-fees).
* The move-out period for students with on-campus housing was [extended through at least June 14](https://news.psu.edu/story/620659/2020/05/20/university-extends-campus-student-move-out-period-june-14), and students now can opt to [have their belongings packed, stored and shipped](https://news.psu.edu/story/620663/2020/05/20/administration/housing-offers-shipping-storage-options-student-move-out). More information is available in [updated FAQs](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/faq/story/what-is-the-direction-for-students-returning-to-on-campus-housing).
* Penn State’s [Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics (CIDD)](https://www.huck.psu.edu/institutes-and-centers/center-for-infectious-disease-dynamics) launched the [Ask CIDD initiative](https://news.psu.edu/video/612727/2020/03/23/research/ask-cidd), a video series addressing the public’s most commonly asked questions about COVID-19, with answers from experts based on current research.
* [University-wide changes to procurement procedures](https://news.psu.edu/story/620803/2020/05/20/university-wide-changes-procurement-procedures-recently-announced) were announced as part of ongoing efforts to address pandemic-driven budgetary challenges.
* “Tech TAs” are available to [assist faculty with Zoom sessions through the summer](https://news.psu.edu/story/620227/2020/05/14/academics/tech-tas-assist-faculty-zoom-sessions-through-summer).
* **REMINDER:** Penn State is canceling, rescheduling, or moving to virtual delivery all nonessential events and meetings [through at least June 30](https://news.psu.edu/story/620141/2020/05/14/penn-state-canceling-postponing-offering-virtually-all-events-through-june) 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.

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

* The University’s official [COVID-19 information site](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo)and [FAQ page](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/faqs/)
(Note: The most recent FAQ updates are provided [here](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/faqs/#latest))
* The [“University Measures” webpage](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/university-measures/), which summarizes steps Penn State is taking in response to COVID-19.
* The [Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site](https://hr.psu.edu/covid-19-coronavirus)
* A robust [list of contacts and resources](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/contacts-and-resources-for-penn-staters/)for the University community
* The University websites dedicated to remote [teaching](http://remoteteaching.psu.edu/) and [learning](http://remotelearning.psu.edu/)