

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](#) 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](#) for unit leads to fill out and request to have employees on site at any campus.
- The recently launched [“Back to State” website](#) 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](#) 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](#). Viewers are encouraged to [fill out a survey about the event](#), 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](#).
- The move-out period for students with on-campus housing was [extended through at least June 14](#), and students now can opt to [have their belongings packed, stored and shipped](#). More information is available in [updated FAQs](#).
- Penn State's [Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics \(CIDD\)](#) launched the [Ask CIDD initiative](#), 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](#) 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](#).

- **REMINDER:** 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.

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](#)