Friday, May 29, 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.

- The Office of Human Resources launched a “Return to Work” website with resources for University employees, including guidance for supervisors with teams that must do on-site work. At this time, all Penn State employees who are currently working remotely should plan to do so until further notice.

- On Thursday, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed a partial state budget that maintains Penn State’s current funding levels for the entire 2020-21 fiscal year, including level funding of $242.1 million for the university’s general support appropriation.

- Gov. Tom Wolf's announcements of additional counties moving into the “yellow phase” enables students living in those counties to schedule a date to move out of their residence halls. More information is available in updated FAQs.

- Visitors to Penn State campuses are expected to continue following social distancing, mask wearing, and other safety measures designed to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

- Through the new COVID-19 Data 4 Action Project, Penn State researchers are collecting information to inform pandemic-related decisions made by government officials, university administrators, and the public.

- 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 and “Return to Work” website
- A robust list of contacts and resources for the university community
- The Penn State websites dedicated to remote teaching and learning