Friday, June 5, 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.

- While Penn State’s plans for Fall 2020 are still under consideration, the task groups working on returning students and employees to campus are planning to meet or exceed the expectations of universities, which were announced Wednesday by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

- Penn State is examining the potential return of small student cohorts to campuses during the second summer session as the University is able to meet the governor’s requirements.

- If you are among the Penn State employees who have received unemployment benefit checks even though you are working and have not filed a claim for such compensation, immediately inform your unit Human Resources Strategic Partner or Consultant and contact the Department of Labor and Industry. Do not cash a fraudulent check if you receive one.

- To accommodate students living in areas that will soon have their travel restrictions relaxed, Penn State has extended the residence hall move-out period for several campuses.

- Beginning June 10, Penn State’s School of Public Policy is hosting a virtual speaker series, “Policy and the Pandemic,” every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

- The Penn State Social Science Research Institute recently launched a website featuring pandemic-related insights from University experts and other resources.

- Penn State is one of 15 institutions participating in the National COVID Cohort Collaborative, which will turn anonymized data from patients’ medical records into effective treatments and predictive tools.

- Penn State’s Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics is asking Centre County residents to take a 10-minute, anonymous survey, which will document health, economic, educational, social and other impacts during the pandemic.

- Previously scheduled for August 11-13, Penn State’s 2020 Ag Progress Days expo has been canceled due to the pandemic.
• **REMINDERS:**
  
o All University employees who are currently working remotely should plan to do so until further notice.

  o The [recently launched “Back to State” webpage](#) includes information for students, faculty, and staff regarding the latest plans for an eventual return to classes and work on campus.

  o 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 participants wearing face masks.

  o The University will announce its plans for the Fall 2020 semester by Monday, June 15.

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

  • The University’s “Back to State” page, official [COVID-19 information site](#) and [FAQ page](#) (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” resource site
  • A robust [list of contacts and resources](#) for the University community
  • The Penn State websites dedicated to remote teaching and learning