

Friday, June 12, 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 University will announce its plans for the Fall 2020 semester on Monday, June 15.
- Penn State is preparing for a coordinated, phased return to on-campus working, learning, and living at locations across the Commonwealth. Information about the process will be posted on the [“Back to State” webpage](#). The [University’s comprehensive COVID-19 FAQ webpage](#) also will be updated regularly with new or significantly revised questions and answers for students, faculty, staff, and the community.
- [“Return to Work” survey results](#) show that faculty and staff largely support COVID-19 mitigation measures, such as testing, contact tracing, quarantine, and social distancing. University leaders are reviewing that data and the [results of a similar student-focused survey](#) to inform strategies for returning to Penn State campuses.
- Penn State [suspended all Fall 2020 semester-long study abroad programming](#).
- The recently updated [Zoom at Penn State](#) website offers students, faculty, and staff detailed information about the online meeting tool, including training resources, frequently asked questions, and support.
- Penn State University Libraries has added two Zoom sessions to its [Enabling Remote Research seminar series](#) to help researchers shift their work from onsite to offsite.
- Penn State’s School of Public Policy is hosting a virtual speaker series, [“Policy and the Pandemic,”](#) on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. The next session on June 17 focuses on state and local officials’ response to the pandemic.
- On Monday, [Penn State Athletics began a phased approach](#) to returning to campus with football student-athletes.
- Penn State is [making SAT/ACT score submissions optional](#) for prospective students applying for Summer or Fall 2021 admission. The university’s undergraduate application for Summer/Fall 2021 will open on August 1.
- The Board of Trustees [delayed the election of its officers](#), originally scheduled in July, due to COVID-19 safety measures.

- The Institute of State and Regional Affairs at [Penn State Harrisburg released new data](#) examining Pennsylvanians' trust in public officials to provide pandemic-related information.
- **REMINDERS:**
 - All University employees who are currently working remotely should plan to do so until further notice.
 - 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.

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

- The University's "[Back to State](#)" page, 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](#)" resource site
- The University's [health information page focused on personal safety practices](#) for Penn Staters at all campuses
- A robust [list of contacts and resources](#) for the University community
- The Penn State websites dedicated to remote [teaching](#) and [learning](#)
- The Social Science Research Institute [website featuring pandemic-related insights from University experts](#) and other resources