**Friday, June 26, 2020**

**News Digest: Penn State’s Preparations for Fall 2020**

This emailed news summary provides University faculty and others with a high-level overview of Penn State’s pandemic-related news and updates. Watch for future news digests in your email twice each week.

* **On Thursday, Executive Vice President and Provost Nick Jones and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Kathy Bieschke recorded a** [video message for University faculty](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKEdzzcEDjY&feature=youtu.be) **regarding preparations for on-campus instruction in the fall.**
* **Through videos, emailed news updates, and updated websites, Penn State** is expanding communications to all faculty to share key information. In conjunction with this effort, [faculty are encouraged to submit questions](https://news.psu.edu/story/624307/2020/06/26/penn-state-faculty-can-submit-questions-about-return-classroom-and-campus) they may have via [this new online form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLJXKUWNxbcqBGf_NJ7x0734cy_GId-aIoiCNYpWPjXAEGsw/viewform) so leadership can read and respond to them in upcoming communications.
* On Monday, President Barron and other University leaders hosted a virtual Town Hall for faculty and staff to discuss Penn State’s plans for Fall 2020. The recorded event is available to view at [live.events.psu.edu](https://liveevents.psu.edu/). Faculty and staff are encouraged to provide feedback about the Town Hall by completing [this confidential survey.](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bCxaLFbKcGoZ0iN)
* Recently launched [“Keep Teaching”](https://keepteaching.psu.edu/) and [“Keep Learning”](https://keeplearning.psu.edu/) websites provide resources for faculty and students to help prepare for Fall 2020. Among this week’s updates for faculty on [keepteaching.psu.edu](https://keepteaching.psu.edu/) are:
  + [Return to Resident Instruction guidance](https://keepteaching.psu.edu/fall-2020/instructional-issues-for-return-to-resident-instruction/) (latest update on Thursday, June 25; information on this page will continue to be updated)
  + [Flexible Instructional Modes summary and details](https://keepteaching.psu.edu/fall-2020/flexible-instructional-modes/)

Additional updates to the [“Keep Teaching” site](https://keepteaching.psu.edu/) will be spotlighted in future news digests.

* The University will offer students a robust portfolio of remote learning options and experiences through [Penn State Start at Home and Continue at Home](https://news.psu.edu/story/623602/2020/06/18/academics/students-who-remain-home-fall-will-have-opportunities-keep), so students who cannot be on campus this fall can begin or continue to make progress toward their degrees.
* Penn State has updated guidance effective July 1 for University-related [travel](https://sites.psu.edu/provost/files/2015/10/Updated-Travel-Guidance-06.19.20.pdf) and [meetings and events](https://sites.psu.edu/provost/files/2015/10/Updated-Meetings-and-Events-Guidance-06.19.20.pdf).
* Closed since mid-March, [The Nittany Lion Inn in University Park will remain closed](https://news.psu.edu/story/623823/2020/06/22/administration/nittany-lion-inn-remain-closed-used-isolation-space-needed), and the hotel’s 223 guestrooms will be used in the fall as isolation rooms for students who may contract COVID-19.
* Penn State will live-stream a [virtual commencement ceremony for Summer 2020 graduates at 2 p.m. Saturday, August 15](https://news.psu.edu/story/623923/2020/06/23/academics/penn-state-summer-commencement-be-held-virtual-ceremony).

**REMINDERS:**

* All University employees who are currently working remotely should plan to do so until further notice unless otherwise instructed.
* Penn State has canceled, rescheduled, or moved 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 participants wearing face masks.

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

* The University’s comprehensive [“Back to State” page](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/back-to-state) and [updated FAQs](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/faq/topic/back-to-state) regarding **plans to resume on-campus work and learning this fall**
* The [“University Measures” webpage](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/university-measures/), which summarizes steps Penn State is taking in response to COVID-19
* Penn State’s guidance for University-related [travel](https://sites.psu.edu/provost/files/2015/10/Updated-Travel-Guidance-06.19.20.pdf) and [meetings and events](https://sites.psu.edu/provost/files/2015/10/Updated-Meetings-and-Events-Guidance-06.19.20.pdf)
* The [Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site](https://hr.psu.edu/covid-19-coronavirus) and [“Return to Work”](https://sites.psu.edu/returntowork/) resource site
* The University’s [health information page focused on personal safety practices](https://virusinfo.psu.edu/stay-well) for Penn Staters at all campuses
* A robust, updated[list of contacts and resources](https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/contacts-and-resources-for-penn-staters/)for the University community
* The Penn State websites dedicated to remote [teaching](https://remoteteaching.psu.edu/) and [learning](https://remotelearning.psu.edu/)
* The Social Science Research Institute [website featuring pandemic-related insights from University experts](http://covid-19.ssri.psu.edu/) and other resources