

Friday, August 21, 2020

News for Faculty: Penn State's Preparations for Fall 2020

This twice-weekly email is designed to provide faculty with Penn State's pandemic-related news and updates as the University prepares for the Fall 2020 semester. Watch for these emails on Tuesdays and Fridays, with additional "special editions" delivered periodically. Previous faculty news digests are [archived here](#).

QUESTIONS FROM FACULTY

Q: As an instructor at University Park, will I have to enforce Penn State's testing requirements for students in my class?

A: Instructors at University Park should proceed with the start of their courses on Monday and do not need to enforce this requirement. Students who have not yet completed the mandatory pre-arrival testing will receive a communication from Provost Jones reiterating the requirement. On-campus testing sites at University Park will be open over the weekend for these students to initiate the testing process. Student Conduct processes will be initiated for all students who are still non-compliant as of 8 a.m. Monday, August 24, with potential repercussions up to and including expulsion from Penn State.

Q: As an instructor at a Penn State Commonwealth Campus, will I have to enforce Penn State's testing requirements for students in my class?

A: Instructors at Commonwealth Campuses should proceed with the start of their courses on Monday and do not need to enforce this requirement. Students who have not yet completed the mandatory pre-arrival testing have been contacted by the campus and will receive a communication from the Senior Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses and Executive Chancellor Madlyn Hanes reiterating the requirement. On-campus testing sites at several locations throughout the state will be open over the weekend for these students to initiate the testing process. Student Conduct processes will be initiated for all students who are still non-compliant as of 8 a.m. Monday, August 24, with potential repercussions up to and including expulsion from Penn State.

Q: Are there any on-campus spaces available at University Park for students to use for remote class sessions?

A: The University has [approximately 45 designated Remote Learning Rooms](#) at University Park for students to use to view their remote classes individually or together in small groups, while social distancing and wearing masks, this fall. These spaces are smaller general purpose classrooms that have not been scheduled for classes because social distancing (due to COVID-19) did not permit for the necessary occupancy. In

addition to regular student spaces on campus that have had seating adjusted for social distancing, these rooms are open for use during normal building hours and have clear signage indicating that they are intended for access for remote classes. Students will need to bring their own devices. Room locations and capacity are available by selecting the “Remote Learning Rooms” option on the campus map at map.psu.edu.

FEATURED NEWS - FALL INSTRUCTION RESOURCES

As instructors prepare to teach classes this upcoming academic year, a new [Instructor Guide to Fall 2020](#) is now available through the keepteaching.psu.edu website that combines updates and changes the University has made into a single document. The 25-page guide, which was prepared by a team of faculty members, distills available information ranging from protocols and policies governing health and safety, to technology and training resources, to best practices for instruction into a “one-stop shop” for instructors.

LATEST NEWS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACULTY

- President Barron [shared a message with the Penn State community](#) following reports of students congregating in large numbers outside of East Halls on the University Park campus.
- Students, faculty, and staff at all Penn State campuses are reminded to [take advantage of resources and review critical information](#) related to health and safety guidelines and academic support.
- Students who were selected for – but have not taken – a pre-arrival COVID-19 test [must complete the process](#) and share a negative test outcome by 8 a.m. on Monday, August 24 if they wish to attend classes or participate in other activities on any Penn State campus.
- All active Penn State students [have been provided details](#) about how to review and acknowledge the new language version of the student COVID-19 Compact. Students who previously acknowledged the original pledge can now void their acknowledgement if they choose, and may now acknowledge the modified version.
- President Barron [will welcome first-year students](#) to Penn State during the President’s New Student Convocation, to be held virtually this year at 8 p.m. on Saturday, August 22. Other events include [“Be A Part From The Start” on Sunday, August 23, and “BASH” from August 24-28](#). Both events will be held virtually.

KEY REMINDERS FOR FACULTY

- Penn State students living on campus who were selected for pre-arrival COVID-19 testing [will not be permitted to check in to their residence hall](#) until they have received a negative test result from Vault Health. Students receiving positive test results will not be permitted to move in until they have completed their isolation period. Students who were selected for testing who did not complete a test will be advised via LionPATH that they will not be able to attend a class in person or participate in any on-campus activities until they complete the test.
- Instructors can locate information about which software students can access from international locations on the [Software at Penn State website](#).
- [Faculty can still submit questions](#) related to Penn State's plans for a return to classrooms in the fall. Questions may be submitted [here](#).
- Copious development and training opportunities are available to faculty in preparation for the Fall 2020 semester. [Upcoming webinars for instructors](#) at all Penn State campuses include:
 - Monday, August 24: [Looking through the Faculty Lens: Creating Engaging Video Content](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, please review:

- The University's comprehensive resources on its "[Back to State](#)" page and [updated FAQs](#) regarding plans to resume on-campus work and learning this fall
- Penn State's "[Keep Teaching](#)" and "[Keep Learning](#)" websites, including many [Fall 2020 instruction-related FAQs](#) and [new webinars](#)
- The online archive of [video messages](#) from Penn State leaders and experts, previous [news digests](#), and pandemic-related University [news stories](#)
- The [Office of Human Resources COVID-19 information site](#) and "[Return to Work on Campus](#)" resource site
- The "[University Measures](#)" webpage, which summarizes steps Penn State is taking in response to COVID-19
- The University's [health information page focused on personal safety practices](#) for individuals at all campuses
- A robust, updated [list of contacts and resources](#) for the University community
- The Social Science Research Institute [website featuring pandemic-related insights from University experts](#) and other resources