

Visitors to Penn State Campuses **August 12, 2021**

Introduction and Philosophy

As the number of individuals who have opted to get vaccinated continues to rise, the University is preparing for a full in-person campus environment in the fall; to that end, the summer offers a natural transition period. This document updates and discusses the general principles that should govern decisions about inviting visitors to campus during this time. Units inviting visitors to campus should continue to evaluate whether remote options are available and must continue to ensure that current health and safety guidelines are followed.

Individual visitors still bear responsibility for adhering to guidelines and protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. All individuals, regardless of their vaccination status, are required to wear face masks while inside buildings on Penn State campuses. There are no physical distancing or masking requirements outdoors for any individuals, vaccinated or unvaccinated. Visitors should consider and evaluate how their own [vaccination status impacts the level of risk](#) they are comfortable accepting before visiting campus.

While Penn State has adopted guidelines and protocols recommended by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, there is no way to entirely eliminate the risk of exposure or infection. As always, the University reserves the right to cancel functions and/or expel anyone who does not adhere to its policies.

The COVID-19 Operations and Control Center (COCC) team must be notified by either the event organizer or the unit executive if a campus visitor, either visiting campus alone or attending a meeting or event, subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.

Units hosting individual visitors will consider the following:

- Communication – units must share information with visitors about COVID guidelines, including mask expectations for unvaccinated individuals.
- Acknowledgment of risk – the [general acknowledgment and information](#) should be shared with all visitors to communicate policies and expectations. A similar [form](#) calls for signatures, and is only required to be used for visitors under the age of 18.

Group Events

Units wishing to hold an event must follow [current guidelines for events and large gatherings](#). These guidelines contain information about the approval process, elements of the required safety plan, and planning resources. Units hosting an event will consider the following:

- Communication – units must share information about what participants can expect at events/gatherings.
- Mask expectations – communications should clearly state that all attendees, per Penn State policy, must wear masks when attending indoor events. This language should be clearly communicated and posted at events/gatherings.
- Cleaning – identify cleaning protocols and if there are any high touchpoint locations or other areas where germs can spread easily and make sure that they are cleaned regularly.
- Acknowledgment of risk – [signs should be placed](#) at all venues indicating that those in attendance understand that the virus is still present in our communities and that they assume the risk of contracting the virus by attending the event.
- Acknowledgment of risk form – [the form is no longer required](#) to be completed by all participants; however, there may be activities (e.g., youth camps/clinics) for which a signature is necessary.
- Reducing contact – planners should reduce the risk of contact by the use of digital tickets and cashless concessions, digital programs, or handouts.

- RSVPs – planners should still maintain a list of attendees and their contact information whenever possible.

Employees working at multiple campuses / traveling to multiple campuses

Employees who are required to work at, or travel to, multiple campuses as part of their jobs do not need additional approval to do so. Those who are in such a situation should inform all impacted unit(s) (i.e., the campuses to which the employee will be traveling) of their planned travel.

Hiring

Generally, searches should be conducted remotely to the extent possible, and only finalists should be considered for a campus visit. Additional guidance pertaining to on-campus visits as part of faculty searches is available [here](#).

Effective date of this guidance

This guidance is effective as of the date listed above, as are all policies or guidelines referenced within this document. Penn State reserves the right to amend this guidance at any time at its sole discretion, including a change in virus conditions.