

**Friday, June 19, 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.

- **Penn State announced its plans to resume on-campus work and learning in the Fall 2020 semester.** The University's [official "Back to State" plans](#) call for a flexible, adaptable schedule, with campus-based instruction August 24 through November 20. The remainder of the semester — including final examinations — will be administered online beginning November 30 (after Thanksgiving break). [Read the full announcement here.](#)
- In conjunction with the Fall 2020 announcement, Penn State launched a webpage featuring answers to a [new, extensive list of FAQs](#) for University faculty, students, and staff.
- The University will offer a robust portfolio of remote learning options and experiences through [Penn State Start at Home and Continue at Home](#), so students who must remain home this fall can begin or continue to make progress toward their degrees. More details will be announced at [keeplearning.psu.edu](#).
- [Two virtual town halls will be held Monday, June 22](#) — one for faculty and staff from 2-3 p.m. and one for students and families from 3:30-4:30 p.m. — focused on returning to on-campus work and learning. Questions for the town halls, to be live-streamed at <https://liveevents.psu.edu>, can be submitted anonymously via separate online Google forms for [faculty and staff](#) and [students and families](#).
- New ["Keep Teaching"](#) and ["Keep Learning"](#) websites provide resources for faculty and students to prepare for Fall 2020.
- Penn State faculty and the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence are creating a [video series focused on best practices for remote instruction](#).
- [Applications for the second round of CARES Act student emergency grants](#) are now being accepted.
- Due to pandemic-related restrictions, [incoming Penn State students are experiencing orientation virtually](#) this summer.
- [Virtual office hours with Penn State Student Affairs](#) resumed June 18. Students can connect via Zoom to speak with a Student Affairs director on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Penn State announced that [Spring 2020 and future graduates can purchase a Certified Electronic Diploma](#), or CeDiploma, in addition to receiving a traditional paper diploma issued after degree conferral.
- **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 comprehensive ["Back to State" page](#) and [updated FAQs](#).
- 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, updated [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