

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](#) 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](#) they may have via [this new online form](#) 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](#). Faculty and staff are encouraged to provide feedback about the Town Hall by completing [this confidential survey](#).
- Recently launched ["Keep Teaching"](#) and ["Keep Learning"](#) websites provide resources for faculty and students to help prepare for Fall 2020. Among this week's updates for faculty on [keepteaching.psu.edu](#) are:
 - [Return to Resident Instruction guidance](#) (latest update on Thursday, June 25; information on this page will continue to be updated)
 - [Flexible Instructional Modes summary and details](#)

Additional updates to the ["Keep Teaching" site](#) 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](#), 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](#) and [meetings and events](#).
- Closed since mid-March, [The Nittany Lion Inn in University Park will remain closed](#), 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.](#)

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](#) 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](#) regarding plans to resume on-campus work and learning this fall
- The ["University Measures" webpage](#), which summarizes steps Penn State is taking in response to COVID-19
- Penn State's guidance for University-related [travel](#) and [meetings and events](#)
- 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