

**Tuesday, July 14, 2020**

## **News Digest: Penn State's Preparations for Fall 2020**

This email provides faculty with Penn State's pandemic-related news and updates as the University prepares for the Fall 2020 semester. Watch for these news digests in your email twice each week, typically on Tuesdays and Fridays, with additional "special editions" delivered periodically. Previous news digests are [archived here](#).

## **FACULTY FAQs**

***Q: Penn State's Colleges, Institutes, and Commonwealth Campuses have developed plans that allow for gradually increasing on-campus research activities. What happens when someone does not follow the plans?***

**A:** Deans, Chancellors, and Institute Directors are responsible for ensuring their faculty, staff, and students comply with each of their unit's plans. If an individual is aware of any non-compliance, they should report it to the appropriate Dean, Chancellor, or Institute Director. Alternatively, they can report the situation to their facility coordinator, who will then communicate with the appropriate unit leader. Persistent non-compliance, when confirmed, may result in removal of the individual's approval for conducting research on campus or at other facilities.

Visit [https://www.research.psu.edu/COVID\\_return\\_research](https://www.research.psu.edu/COVID_return_research) for more information regarding Penn State's return-to-research plans.

***Q: I am an instructor who needs additional technology, such as an iPad, to deliver course work remotely. What is available to me?***

**A:** Technology tools such as iPads and Apple Pencils are available for loan on a first-come, first-served basis to Penn State faculty who need a way to work virtually through written materials, such as equations. Fill out the [Penn State Mobile Technology Request Form](#) with your current mailing address, and the equipment can be shipped directly to you. (Note: You must be logged in to the IT service portal to access the form.) Information about your request will be relayed via the phone number you provide in the form. A return shipping label will be included, so that you can return the equipment at the end of the term in which you are teaching.

## **LATEST NEWS**

- Along with 58 other U.S. colleges and universities, [Penn State filed an amicus brief in support of a lawsuit](#) to block a Trump administration policy prohibiting international students from remaining in the United States while enrolling exclusively in online courses.

- Penn State faculty at all campuses are encouraged to complete this [brief survey about the kinds of instructional development that will best support their teaching](#) in Fall 2020.
- The “Keep Teaching” website has [updated Return to Resident Instruction guidance](#).
- For the duration of the pandemic, Penn State University Libraries is licensing more e-books, and its [course reserves materials will be available to students mostly online](#).
- Presented by Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology, [Engaging Students Series virtual workshops](#) are designed to help faculty make course revisions to support student success in synchronous and asynchronous remote learning environments. [Several workshops are scheduled in July and August](#).

## REMINDERS

- A [new University Libraries webpage](#) provides key information regarding pandemic-driven operational changes, access to resources, and much more.
- Penn State [faculty are encouraged to continue submitting questions](#) via [this online form](#) so leadership can respond to them in upcoming communications.

## 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
- The online archives 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”](#) 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