

Dear Penn State Law and SIA community,

As we prepare to welcome you back, we wanted to give you an update on how the Katz Building will operate this Fall.

The health and safety of our community remains paramount and Penn State Law and SIA will be complying with all Penn State University guidance and requirements. The University-issued guidance, and various other relevant information, is available at Penn State's [comprehensive COVID website](#), which contains detailed information on topics such as masking, vaccines, testing, contact tracing, travel, gatherings/events, etc.

In addition to University requirements, there are several other changes of which to be aware at the Katz Building specifically. We're sending this email so you can become familiar with some of those changes before you arrive next week, which will also be posted on the [Penn State Law](#) and [SIA](#) webpages.

Before we get into the details, we want to acknowledge that some of this will be inconvenient, and perhaps even frustrating and/or confusing. We apologize for that, and we appreciate your understanding, cooperation, and flexibility as we all pull together to make your education work as well, and for all of us to be as safe, as possible.

Vaccinations and testing. The University continues to strongly encourage students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and to share their vaccination status with the University. For information about vaccines and how to register your vaccination status click here: [vaccine-information/#upload](#). Students and employees who have not informed the University that they have been fully vaccinated will be subject to testing during the fall semester. For information about testing protocols click here: [penn-state-announces-new-covid-19-testing-protocols-for-fall-semester](#).

What if you're feeling sick? If you feel sick or are in quarantine/isolation because of a positive test or exposure to someone with COVID-19, please stay home. Students should notify their professors that they will be absent and employees should notify their supervisors. Visit [#ifyoufeelsick](#) (and scroll down on that page) for more information about what to do if you feel sick.

Masks/Face Coverings. As of August 4, all students, employees and visitors – vaccinated or unvaccinated – must wear face masks/coverings in all campus buildings – including the Katz building and the Clinic spaces. This applies to classrooms, meeting spaces, the common areas, the law library and all other shared public indoor areas. If you do not comply with this requirement you will not be permitted in the buildings. Multi-layer cloth masks or procedure masks are the preferred type of face covering; all face coverings must cover the nose and mouth. At this time, masking is not required outdoors.

Katz Building Access and Hours. As of August 16, the main doors of the Katz Building are now unlocked from 7:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. At all other times, including weekends, Katz will be swipe card accessible by students, faculty and staff of Penn State Law and SIA. If you are a member of the Penn State Law and SIA community (student, faculty or staff) and your PSU ID card does not work in the swipe system, please email Randy Fulton, our Facilities Director, at rjf9@psu.edu.

Hand Sanitizer/Hand Hygiene. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be positioned around the building, such as near the main entrances and at the entrances of classrooms and just inside the library entrance. There are also hand sanitizer dispensers just inside the door to each restroom.

Common areas and Classrooms. The University has dropped the social distancing requirements which were in effect last year so our classrooms and common area seating has been returned to normal capacities and configurations.

Law Library and Library Seating. The Law Library will be unlocked and accessible by the public from 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday, and swipe-card accessible by Penn State Law and SIA students, faculty and staff at all other times, including weekends.

Please review the [User Guidelines](#) for information regarding hours, services, seating, and equipment in the law library.

As with the classrooms and common areas, library seating capacity has been returned to normal. Masking is required in all areas of the law library, including group study rooms, study carrels, and reading room. The consumption of food will not be permitted in the library until further notice. Drinking will be allowed in the library; masks may be lifted to allow an individual to take a drink.

Class attendance/absence. Consistent with the University's plan for in-person teaching, learning and working for the fall semester, the presumption and default rule for students is that they are expected to attend class in-person unless they've been granted express permission otherwise or, in the case of our SIA students, are enrolled in World Campus. If a student becomes ill or is in quarantine/isolation, they should not attend class. Students who need to miss class due to illness or other reasons should work with their professors on how best to remain current and maintain their studies.

Food/Drink. Due to the mask mandate, the consumption of food will not be permitted in public areas inside the Katz Building, except in the Panera dining area. Drinking will be allowed throughout the building and masks may be lifted to allow individuals to take a drink. We have arranged to have a large tent canopy outside Katz to provide a covered area where students and employees may eat. At the Clinics building (Building 329 Innovation Park) there is a breakroom designated for eating on the third floor.

Gatherings and Events. Gatherings and events will be permitted in Katz consistent with Penn State's policy, described here: [Campus visitors, meetings and events, and tours | Penn State \(psu.edu\)](#). Virtual and/or hybrid-format events and meetings remain an option and should be considered whenever feasible. Tabling is permitted in the Katz building, and can also be set up outside if preferred, weather permitting. Consistent with the preceding section regarding Food/Drink, we ask that any food associated with events be consumed outside of Katz until further notice.

We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation during this challenging time. Although our building will function a bit differently, our commitment to supporting you and our community remain unchanged.

Best, RLS

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