

Dear Penn State Law and SIA community,

As we prepare to welcome you back for the Spring semester, we wanted to highlight a few things and provide some reminders about how we will operate in the Spring.

On December 30, the University [announced](#) that we will start the Spring semester *as planned*, with in-person classes and activities to be held as scheduled with continued health and safety protocols in place (the University will continue to monitor the conditions around the campus and will alter plans if necessary). The health and safety of our community remains paramount and Penn State Law and SIA will continue to comply 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. For Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Spring 2022 in particular click here: [Penn State virus info FAQs](#). Penn State also has a [COVID-19 Call Center](#) at (814)865-2121 which you can call with questions about COVID-related topics.

A few COVID-related items of particular interest to our community are listed below. Please take a moment to review them as you prepare to return to campus.

If you have symptoms, or have been exposed, or tested positive. If you have [COVID symptoms](#) (or otherwise feel ill), or believe you have been exposed to COVID, or had a positive test yourself, please stay home and do not come to the building. Students should notify their professors that they will be absent. In addition, students should contact University Health Services at (814)863-0774 or uhs-info@psu.edu for medical advice. Students who have tested positive for COVID or think they've been exposed to someone who has tested positive should also contact PSU Contract Tracing and Student Support Services at (814)863-8800. This office will advise you, based on your personal circumstances, when you may return to the classroom. Likewise, employees who have COVID symptoms or have tested positive for COVID should notify their supervisors and contact PSU Occupational Medicine at (814)863-8492 for information about return to work. Your supervisor may also contact OccMed on your behalf. Students and employees interested in more information about what to do what you feel sick can also visit [#ifyoufeelsick](#) (and scroll down on that page).

Vaccinations. The University continues to strongly encourage students to get vaccinated for COVID-19, and to share their vaccination status with the University. Students who have not informed the University that they have been fully vaccinated will be subject to testing during the semester. For information about vaccinations available to students through Penn State, as well as an upcoming vaccine clinic at Bryce Jordon Center on January 9, please visit [COVID-19 Vaccinations | Penn State Student Affairs \(psu.edu\)](#).

Employees who have been granted an accommodation (religious or medical) or aren't yet vaccinated and uploaded their vaccination information will be required to test weekly. Please also see the [December 30 announcement](#) for information about the federal contractor mandate as it relates to employee vaccinations.

For more information about vaccines and how to register your vaccination status click here: [vaccine-information/#upload](#).

Also, with the rise of omicron, the University is strongly encouraging all students, faculty and staff to get [COVID-19 booster shots](#) as soon as possible.

Testing. The University is urging students to get tested for COVID-19 before returning to campus. Free test kits are available to students (and employees). For more information about testing and testing options, please refer to the [December 30 announcement](#).

Masks/Face Coverings. As with the Fall semester, 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.

Food/Drink. Due to the mask mandate, the consumption of food is not be permitted in public areas inside the Katz Building, except in the Panera dining area and the Designated Eating Area in the common area just outside the Auditorium. When seated in the Panera dining area or the Designated Eating Area, masks may be removed while actively eating. Drinking will be allowed throughout the building and masks may be lifted to allow individuals to take a drink.

Hand Sanitizer/Hand Hygiene. Hand sanitizer dispensers are 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.

Law Library and Library Seating. The Law Library will be unlocked and accessible by the public from 7:00am 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 a reminder, ***masking is required in all areas of the law library***, including group study rooms, study carrels, and reading room. Drinking is allowed in the library; masks may be lifted to allow an individual to take a drink. Eating is not allowed in the library.

Class attendance/absence. Consistent with the University's plan for in-person teaching, learning and working for the Spring 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.

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. Due to limited eating space in the building, we recommend that food not be included as part of gatherings or events in the Katz building.

We appreciate everyone's continued patience and cooperation. Have a safe and productive semester.

Best,

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