

Visitors to Penn State Campuses May 10, 2021

Introduction and Philosophy

Throughout the course of the pandemic, the University's overarching strategy has entailed limiting the density of its on-campus populations in order to reduce the chances of incidental contact that may spread illness. As the number of individuals who have opted to get vaccinated continues to rise, the University is preparing for a full in-person campus environment in the fall; to that end, the summer offers a natural transition period. This document updates and discusses the general principles that should govern decisions about inviting visitors to campus during this time. Units inviting visitors to campus should continue to evaluate whether remote options are available and must continue to ensure that current health and safety guidelines are followed.

Individual visitors still bear responsibility for adhering to guidelines and protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including [wearing masks and physical distancing](#). A visitor or participant's vaccination status does not impact their obligation to adhere to these guidelines; however, visitors should consider and evaluate how their own [vaccination status impacts the level of risk](#) they are comfortable accepting before visiting campus. While Penn State has adopted guidelines and protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, there is no way to entirely eliminate the risk of exposure or infection. As always, the University reserves the right to cancel functions and/or expel anyone who does not adhere to its policies.

[Acknowledgments of risk](#) may be utilized to communicate the institution's expectations regarding COVID-19 and require visitors or participants to agree to follow safety protocols. Administrators may consider consulting with Risk Management and the Office of General Counsel regarding their in-person or other programming.

The Coronavirus Operations and Control Center team (COCC) must be notified by either the event organizer or the unit executive if a campus visitor, either visiting campus alone or attending a meeting or event, subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.

Individual Visitors

Employees or student organizations wishing to have a non-employee/non-student visit campus for any period of time must make a request to their unit executive. More information is available [here](#).

Group Events

Units wishing to hold an event must follow current guidelines [for events and large gatherings](#). These guidelines contain information about the approval process, elements of the required safety plan, and planning resources.

Employees working at multiple campuses/traveling to multiple campuses

Employees who are required to work at, or travel to, multiple campuses as part of their jobs do not need additional approval to do so. Those who are in such a situation should inform all impacted unit(s) (i.e., the campuses to which the employee will be traveling) of their planned travel.

Hiring

Generally, searches should be conducted remotely to every extent possible, and only finalists should be considered for a campus visit. If possible, only a candidate who is at the "offer" stage should be invited to visit campus. Additional guidance pertaining to on-campus visits as part of faculty searches is available [here](#).

Effective date of this guidance

This guidance is effective as of the date listed above, as are all policies or guidelines referenced within this document. Penn State reserves the right to amend this guidance should virus conditions change.