

## New Penn State group to hold virtual rally centered on university's COVID-19 response

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A new Penn State group, whose organizers wrote an open letter last month expressing serious concern about the university's fall reopening, announced Wednesday it will hold

The group, organized by faculty and recently dubbed the Coalition for a Just University (CJU/PSU), will host an online Zoom meeting at noon Aug. 5 "to promote public health in the face of the pandemic." Those interested can register online at [bit.ly/cjurally](https://bit.ly/cjurally).

"Even though we've sort of taken shape as a faculty group, we're invested in organizing with staff and graduate employees and other university workers, and we want to comm Penn State professor and CJU/PSU organizer. "We are concerned about students, about community members, and we would like to work together to achieve our goals."

The online rally seeks to build solidarity between different groups with the same concerns, namely surrounding the university's fall response to COVID-19. A number of differe podium — and there will be several calls to action for the university administration.

Among them:

Public health: The university must implement a system of free, highly frequent COVID-19 testing, provide adequate isolation/quarantine spaces — and improve existing sick-le The university must guarantee full employment, pay and benefits through the 2020-2021 year, including eliminating new language eroding job security in fixed-term contracts mode (remote, in-person, or hybrid) for class instruction, meetings and office hours. Instructors will also be able to alter the interaction mode at any time, free from pressure c

Although the group was born out of frustration with the university's fall preparations in response to COVID-19, and next week's rally will center on the coronavirus, CJU/PSU : leaves Happy Valley for good.

"We have some immediate concerns having to do with safety and also job security, the possible economic fallout and how the university chooses to address that," Townsend ad more significant long-term changes in the way the university is run and make this a more equitable place of learning."

For more information, you can email the group at [cjupsu@gmail.com](mailto:cjupsu@gmail.com) or follow them online ([cjupsu.org](https://cjupsu.org)), via Twitter ([@cju\\_psu](https://twitter.com/cju_psu)) or Facebook.

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