

Dear Members of the Penn State Law and SIA Community,

We are making a change to our drinking policy in order to respond to student concerns, while remaining in compliance with [Penn State policy](#). Although we will continue to require masks in the building at all times during class and in public spaces, we will allow everyone to drink water from containers with straws as long as they are (1) wearing their mask while doing so, (2) maintaining social distance, and (3) using a container where the straw reaches the bottom of the container. This [video](#) on PPE Policy, Classroom Management and Safety demonstrates that approach at 4:53 in the video.

We still will not allow eating in the building or drinking through other means that require lifting masks. We will work individually with students who require accommodation, but I want to reinforce that our accommodations will still require everyone to wear masks continuously in public or classroom spaces.

Here is the relevant language from the Penn State policy:

Drinking in Classrooms: With respect to drinking water in the classroom, this is an acceptable activity, but individuals should be expeditious to minimize periods of being unmasked; physical distancing must be maintained. The committee recommends that individuals use a container with a straw that reaches the bottom of the container. With this type of container, the individual can maintain mask coverage over the nose and mouth while sipping out of the straw. Note that this special consideration does not supersede historical classroom restrictions for drinking that may have existed (e.g., no drinking in a laboratory).

It has been wonderful to see our Penn State Law students and faculty in person and remotely for the first day of classes today, and I look forward to welcoming our new SIA students tomorrow at orientation. We appreciate all that everyone in our community is doing to support our each other as we launch this most unusual semester.

Best,
Hari Osofsky

Hari M. Osofsky
Dean | Penn State Law and the School of International Affairs
Distinguished Professor of Law | Professor of International Affairs | Professor of Geography
The Pennsylvania State University | University Park

814-863-1521 | hmo8@psu.edu
252 Lewis Katz Building | University Park, PA 16802
Twitter: @hariosofsky
SSRN: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per_id=512185

