

**BE READY** **BE PREPARED**  
Develop a plan in case campus is evacuated  
on their own commit to their own  
personal evacuation plan.

## DEAR PARENT,

We are excited and looking forward to welcoming students back to campus in just a few short weeks!

Messiah University is committed to providing a safe community, and, as part of that, we want to share with you our emergency preparedness and evacuation plans as required by the Higher Education Opportunity Act. As with any effective emergency plan, the cooperation and proactive attention of every member of the University community is needed, and therefore, the University encourages thoughtful planning for emergency conditions.

We want our students and their families to be as prepared as possible in the unlikely event that an emergency or disaster would require us to evacuate campus. We have designed a planning resource to facilitate the development of your student's personal evacuation plan. Enclosed are guidelines that explain how you and your student can plan for an evacuation. This information also has been included in both the student and parent electronic myMU Guides. Please take the time to review this material with your student and work together to shape a plan that your family can implement should such an occasion arise.

Thanks in advance for having this important conversation. We are hopeful that we will never have the opportunity to implement these plans, but are glad



## 1. Determine the most practical means by which you could leave campus in the event of an evacuation:

- a. Personal car
- b. Ride with a friend or sibling
- c. Parent or relative pick up

This needs to be confirmed and agreed upon in advance, including where to meet. The University has designated the following locations as possible places for students to meet rides in the event the student cannot wait on campus:

1. Grantham Church
2. Bowmansdale Facility (Lisburn Road and Bumblebee Hollow Road)

This will be determined and communicated by the University depending on the situation.

It is important to establish now where you will meet your ride in the event of an evacuation in case communication options are limited. Plan for at least two different meeting places. One place should be directly outside of your residence hall. The other should be a site away from the main campus.

## 2. Discuss in advance where you will go in case of a University-wide campus evacuation.

Most students plan to travel home or to a designated relative's or friend's home within a 100-mile radius of the University. It is important to specifically identify the following information:

- a. Where will you go in the event of a campus evacuation if going home is not possible?
- b. What is the contact information for the host of your evacuation site (if not going home)?
- c. What are the directions for more than one route to the evacuation site from campus?
- d. Will you bring friends along with you?

It is important to confirm now that the evacuation destination is a viable option.

## 3. Establish a communication plan.

Who should you call or text and who would be a good back up to call or text in the event you are unable to reach the first contact?

Keep in mind that cell phone service may be interrupted. It is a good idea to have a phone card to use for land line charges.

## 4. Develop a list of contacts, including at least one out-of-state contact person.

It is often easier to call long distance than locally during an emergency situation. Discuss a plan by which you contact a designated person to notify if your plan changes as well as once you are safely evacuated.

## 5. Determine how you will secure valuable personal belongings (preferably by taking them along before evacuating the campus.

For insurance purposes, develop an itemized list of personal property including room furnishings, clothing and valuables. Photograph and video

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# BE READY BE PREPARED

## Pack an emergency kit in advance

Fill an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you take with you immediately in case of evacuation.

- ^ Water
- ^ First aid kit with:
  - ^ Bandages and gauze
  - ^ Antibiotic ointment