

Dear Students,

As you read in the recent communication from President Phipps, Messiah University will be reopening in August for an on-campus, in-person start to its undergraduate fall session. We have been working diligently to create a plan that is safe, while at the same time optimizes the learning experiences for our students. These are challenging times, and our fall semester will look very different from any semester that we've had before. But we believe as a community we can come together and rise to the challenge.

There will be many adjustments that will need to be made to our programming, our class sizes, and the way that we live together. Our focus will be on our common goals: keeping our community healthy, keeping our campus open, and learning and living together with mutual respect. While we may not be able to have some of our traditional large programming, we will focus on smaller community and we believe our time together this fall will still be meaningful and will promote personal and relational growth.

We will make every effort to make our campus safe for everyone, but at the same time, we understand that there could be circumstances, especially for those with certain chronic health conditions, in which you determine that congregate living/campus life may not be the best choice for you. Therefore, students who are not comfortable or able to attend Messiah University in person this fall are welcome to enroll in classes and engage through remote participation in regularly scheduled courses. As such, students who have previously enrolled for on-campus housing are being asked to confirm or update their plans to attend Messiah University in one of the following three ways.

1. **Residential Student:** The residential student resides in campus housing and participates in the on-campus and in-person educational experience. While this residential and academic experience will have necessary modifications for health and safety, in-person attendance in academic courses and campus activities (within safety and health constraints) will be the expectation and the norm.
2. **Commuter Student:** The commuter student resides off campus locally (within 50 miles of Messiah University) and must fulfill one of the following criteria: living with a parent(s) or immediate family member(s), is married, is over 23 years old, or is classified as having independent status by the Office of Financial Aid. While there will be necessary modifications to campus life for health and safety reasons, in-person attendance in academic courses and campus activities (within safety and health constraints) will be the expectation and the norm.
3. **Fully Remote Student:** The fully remote student resides off campus for the duration of the fall semester and does not travel to campus for academic courses or campus life activities. The student regularly participates in courses with the expectation of regular remote attendance in synchronous course sessions.

Since the CDC considers persons with certain chronic illness to be at higher risk for COVID-19, we are encouraging those with the chronic or uncontrolled illnesses listed below to consider the fully remote learning option. In addition, this option is important to consider if you have severe or uncontrolled anxiety or depression that could make the anticipated challenges of the fall semester particularly difficult to navigate. The chronic conditions that put a person at increased risk include the following:

- Moderate to severe asthma
- Serious heart conditions
- Persons who are immunocompromised (this might be from an illness such as cancer or from a medication that causes a compromised immune system)

- Severe obesity (BMI of 40 or higher)
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney or liver disease

By signing this form on the Nest, you are waiving your ability to live on campus during the Fall 2020 semester. Fully Remote Students are still expected to abide by the Community Covenant and the Code of Conduct while enrolled at Messiah University.

Please note that students who choose “Fully Remote Student” for Fall 2020 may update their choice through July 31<sup>st</sup>, though residential housing options will be limited. After that time, the student is committed to attending courses remotely through the duration of the fall semester.