Dear Students and Colleagues,

In recent weeks, you have received numerous communications informing you of the University’s plans and protocols to reopen for a safe and healthy start of a new academic year amidst the challenges of COVID-19. The purpose of this email is to confirm how we will continue to communicate with you as the semester progresses, and where you can find the information that you need to protect your own health and safety and that of our campus community.

How we’ll communicate with you

Messiah University will continue to utilize the following communication tools to keep you informed as we navigate the fall semester:

• The Messiah Emergency Blog is an online resource updated with any new developments related to COVID-19 health and safety. View and subscribe to the blog here.

• The Together at Messiah website which provides a helpful overview of Messiah’s health and safety practices that will be kept current as the semester progresses. Specific detailed information on the University’s protocols for COVID-19 testing/screening, contact tracing, quarantine and isolation, masking, and Engle Center resources may always be found on this website.

• On Aug. 24, the University launched its online COVID-19 dashboard that publicly discloses the number of confirmed on-campus positive COVID-19 cases, along with the vaccination rates for campus populations. This site is updated each weekday by 5 p.m.

• Mass-emails and text alerts will also be used to communicate timely and/or more urgent information related to the University’s response COVID-19, so please check your campus email regularly and sign up for the text alert system if you have not already done so.

Essential reminders

• The University utilizes a trained contact tracing team that operates according to CDC protocols. Whenever a positive case of COVID-19 is confirmed, the Engle Center will directly contact those individuals who have had close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual(s), which is explained by the CDC as less than six feet for 15 minutes or more, to provide confidential care and support for next steps for the individuals’ and the campus community’s health.

  If you have not been directly contacted by the Engle Center, then you are not an individual determined to have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual on Messiah’s campus.

• The University has a steering team in place, called the Integration and Response Team, that is daily monitoring the status of Messiah’s COVID-19 testing, results and spread, as well as regional
spread and related state and national directives, and is coordinating the appropriate community health response in coordination with supporting campus offices and programs.

- **Confidentiality laws prohibit the University from disclosing any identifying information about affected individuals.** As employees, we also expect your help in maintaining confidentiality related to individual student’s or employee’s health status. Please do not share this type of personal information with others or on social media.

Thank you to all employees for the support and hard work that you have already invested to welcome our residential students back, and to launch the start of our new academic year for all of our undergraduate and graduate students.

*Very appreciatively,*

*The Messiah University Integration and Response Team*

Kim Phipps, president
Randy Basinger, provost
Alison Noble, associate provost, professor of chemistry
Kris Hansen-Kieffer, vice provost for student success and engagement
Kathie Shafer, vice president for operations
Amanda Coffey, vice president for human resources and compliance
David Walker, vice president for finance and planning
John Chopka, vice president for enrollment management
Betsey Miller, MSN, FNP-C, CRNP, medical director, Engle Center for Counseling and Health Services
Laura Miller, director of institutional research
Carla Gross, associate vice president of marketing and communications/special assistant to the president for strategic communication

Issued in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, a federal law originally known as the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, which mandates timely notices and emergency notifications to the campus community. The Clery Act is enforced by the U.S. Department of Education. For additional information, contact the Department of Safety at (717) 691-6005.