

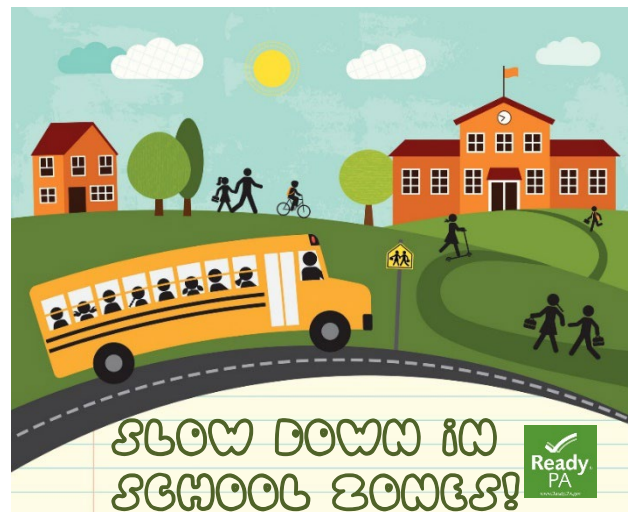
Use this toolkit of key messages and social media content to educate your community about the importance of preparedness. The content in this toolkit is based on the PEMA and FEMA preparedness messaging calendars and is ready for you to use to help make a Ready PA.

This month's topics:	Tools:
Back to School Safety Sign Up for Alerts Sign Up for the Ready PA Newsletter Ready Blog	Social Media Messages Graphics Talking Points

Back to School Safety

Social Media Messages/Graphics: Back to School Safety

Back-To-School Safety Hashtags: #HeadsUpPhonesDown #BackToSchool #SchoolBusSafety #WalkThisWay





Download the image [here](#).



Download the image [here](#).

Talking Points: Back to School Safety

Talk it through! If a disaster happens, knowing who to call and where to meet is an important part of emergency planning for you and your family.

- **Who should you contact?** Pick one main contact locally and one contact out of town who may be easier to reach during a disaster.
- **Text, don't talk.** Texting may be easier during a disaster and frees up phone lines for first responders.
- **Where should we meet?** Decide on safe, familiar, accessible places where your family can go for protection or to reunite. If you have pets or service animals, think about animal-friendly locations. Consider places in your house, in your neighborhood, and outside of your city or town so you're prepared for any situation.
- **Practice Makes Perfect.** Practice your plan. Put pen to paper and make sure everyone in your family has copies of your plan. Hold regular meetings as a family to review your plan.
- **Need Resources?** To start your family communications plan visit: [Make a Plan](#).

Build a Kit – Every family's kit will look different, but here's a list of items commonly found in an emergency kit:

- Water—at least a gallon per person, per day
- Non-perishable food (such as dried fruit, peanut butter, or energy bars)
- First aid kit
- Cash
- Prescription medicines
- Extra batteries or an alternative power source
- Matches in a waterproof container (allow an adult to help)
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap
- Paper plates, plastic cups and utensils, paper towels
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Flashlights
- Whistle to signal for help
- Can opener (manual)
- Local maps
- Pet and service animal supplies
- Baby supplies (formula, diapers, etc.)
- Extra pair of eyeglasses

Make it fun! Practice building your kit by playing this fun game and following this link: <https://www.ready.gov/kids/games/data/bak-english/index.html>

Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law

- Motorists must stop at least 10 feet away from school buses that have their red lights flashing and stop arm extended.
- Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped.
- Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety.
- If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping.
- Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

Tips for Parents/Students

- Get to the school bus stop five minutes early so you won't have to run across the road to catch the bus.
- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic. Line up at least five giant steps away from the curb or the roadway to wait for the bus.
- Never run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
- Never push when getting on or off of the school bus.
- Always walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus when crossing so that the school bus driver can see you.
- Be aware — cross with care! Wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping out onto the road.
- When the school bus is moving, always stay in your seat. Never put your head, arms or hands out of the window.
- Talk quietly; do not distract your school bus driver.
- If your school bus crosses railroad tracks, be calm and quiet so that your driver can listen for a train. Always obey your school bus driver's instructions, so that he or she can make safe decisions.
- Never play with the emergency exits. Backpacks, band instruments, or sports equipment may not block the aisle or emergency exits. If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- When getting off of the school bus, make sure that all drawstrings and other loose objects are secure so that they don't get caught on the handrail or the door.
- Never cross the street behind the school bus.
- If you leave something on the bus or drop something outside of the bus, never go back for it. The driver may not see you and begin moving the bus.
- Never speak to strangers at the bus stop and never get into the car with a stranger.

Sign Up for Alerts

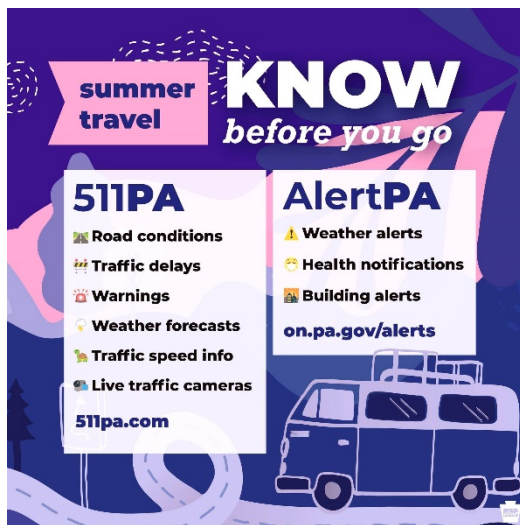
Social Media Messages/Graphics: Sign Up for Alerts

Follow @NWS for heat advisories & excessive heat warnings so you can #BeatTheHeat this summer.

Do you know the difference between a Heat Outlook, Watch, & Warning? Learn them today: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat> #BeatTheHeat

Learn the symptoms of excessive heat exposure and the appropriate responses. [weather.gov/safety/heat-illness](https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat-illness) #HeatSafety

Know before you go! Sign up for alerts at on.pa.gov/alerts & 511pa.com.



Download the image [here](#).



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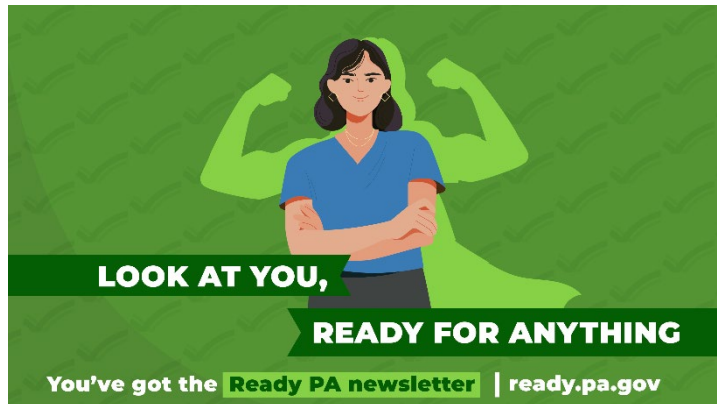
Sign Up for the Ready PA Newsletter

We know: Your email is full of junk. Ours, too. 📧😬👤
But we have a monthly newsletter. And it has actually helpful info to keep you safe.
We know, we know. Everyone says their emails are different.

Tell you what: Browse here, then subscribe if you like what you see: bit.ly/ready-newsletter.



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Visit our Ready PA Blog

Timely safety tips. Every month. Just for Pennsylvanians.
Visit the Ready PA Blog: bit.ly/ready-blog



READY PA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is designed for all citizens and includes information about each of the monthly preparedness topics.

- When you receive the electronic copy, forward it to community groups, personal care homes, hospitals and schools, and more. You can encourage partners to [sign up here](#).
- Make the newsletter available on your website and promote it and its content via social media posts and more.
- Include a link to the most recent newsletter, which can be found on the [Ready PA website](#).

Ready PA Logo

www.ready.pa.gov



Logo

Your website and logo go here.

Ready PA Tip Sheet

Share the August Tip Sheet in your communications:

https://www.ready.pa.gov/BeInformed/ReadyPA_Newsletter/Documents/School-Bus-Safety-Action-Sheet.pdf