

Preparedness Backpack

School bells are ringing for many students across the nation. As your child heads back to class, are they ready for emergency situations that can arise? [Prepare yourself and children now](#) to be disaster-ready throughout the school year. In addition to keeping your emergency contact information up-to-date at your child's school, follow these steps:

- Find out where children will be taken if they have to evacuate the school;
- Ask if they store enough food, water and other supplies in case they have to “shelter-in-place;”
- Designate a friend or relative to pick up your children in an emergency and make sure the school knows who that person is; and
- Ask how they will communicate with families during a crisis.

Remember, back-to-school preparedness means more than buying notebooks and pencils! Visit the new [Ready Kids](#) site for valuable tools to help kids, parents and teachers prepare for emergencies.