



Suicide Postvention Plan

Because all student/faculty/staff deaths affect our community, whether that death is accidental, due to illness, or the result of self-inflicted injury, it is important for the University of Memphis to respond to and recognize all deaths in a consistent manner. Campus leadership and the communications department developed a protocol that includes a campus response to a student/faculty/staff suicide to decrease the trauma experienced by the students and other campus community members left behind and to help prevent further suicides through contagion.

- 1) Upon learning that a student is attempting suicide
 - The police should be notified immediately:
 - If the incident is occurring on-campus, contact the UofM Police Services at 901.678.HELP.
 - If the incident is occurring off-campus, contact 9-1-1.
 - Issues of confidentiality do not apply when a person's life is in danger. In many instances, a suicide attempt constitutes a medical emergency (e.g., bleeding from self-injury, confusion, or coma from drug overdose).
 - If the attempt occurs on campus and is discovered by UofM Housing and Residence Life staff, staff should follow department guidelines.
 - The UofM Police Services will notify:
 - Emergency medical personnel, if needed.
 - The Counseling Center or the on-call counselor.
 - Emergency medical personnel will transport the student to the hospital.
 - In some cases, to ensure the student's safety or that of other members of the campus community, the police officer may be required to take the student into custody and direct the person's transport to the hospital for evaluation. These circumstances include violence, serious injury, or conduct likely to result in immediate serious harm to the student or others.

- If the student is not experiencing a medical emergency, but is experiencing emotional crises, the counselor(s) on-call will conduct an evaluation. If hospitalization is warranted, a police officer may provide transportation.
 - The Counseling Center and Office of the Dean of Students will coordinate after-care support as needed.
- 2) If a student death occurs by suicide
- The following person, or their designee, should be notified immediately:
 - Office of the Dean of Students at 901.678.2187
 - UofM Counseling Center at 901-678-2068
 - In response to the suicide of a student, staff or faculty member, Office of the Dean of Students, the UofM Counseling Center, and appropriate staff and offices involved, will provide services to that individuals and communities affected, in order to:
 - Prevent further suicides
 - Support the bereaved
 - Counteract the other negative effects of exposure to suicide/trauma

Additional Mental Health and Wellness Resources

<https://www.memphis.edu/counseling/wellness-and-resources/index.php>

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/>

<https://jedfoundation.org/mental-health-resource-center/>