



NEWS RELEASE

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University and Community Response to Student-Created Event

State College, Pa. – Penn State University and the Borough of State College are again working together to mitigate the dangerous drinking and other impacts associated with the student-created drinking event known as State Patty's Day.

"State Patty's has a tendency to present challenges for our community and at Penn State, we want to do everything in our power to mitigate those challenges," said Andrea Dowhower, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. "We want our community to remain as safe as possible during this weekend and every weekend. We hope that Penn Staters and the surrounding area will join us to combat the disruptive and damaging consequences we have seen in the past because of State Patty's Day."

Borough and University police along with state law enforcement agencies will work together to maintain a robust law enforcement presence throughout the weekend.

In a memo to members of the State College Tavern Owners Association sent on February 15, State College Borough Manager Tom Fountaine and Penn State Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Andrea Dowhower call on establishment owners to "discourage the excesses and risks associated with this event."

State College Police Chief John Gardner, Penn State Deputy Chief Jason Zajac, and Penn State Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Danny Shaha sent a letter to State College residents on February 22 asking that they refrain from having guests at their apartments and homes this weekend.

"By taking active steps to discourage participation in this event, we might discourage the most problematic behaviors seen in years past," said Fountaine. "We must do all we can collectively to reduce high-risk and dangerous drinking that results in strain on the MNMC and the Emergency Department, University and Borough police resources, and our EMS workers, and the significant negative impacts on so many of our community members, both students and long-term residents."

The following safety measures have been put in place to curtail dangerous activities this weekend:

- Greek-letter organizations have been asked to voluntarily limit social events with alcohol at their facilities throughout the weekend.

- The University's residence halls will limit guests to one per room for the weekend.
- Off-campus property managers will be notified of these events and will have extra staff on hand to patrol their properties and quickly report illegal activities to police.

Any Penn State student charged with violations during the weekend, on or off-campus, will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate disciplinary action. However, students are reminded that local guidelines, including Penn State's Responsible Action Protocol and Pennsylvania's Medical Amnesty Law, protect students from prosecution for consumption or possession of alcohol when they seek help for a peer who is passed out, unconscious or unresponsive as the result of over-consumption.

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