The first few weeks of college life are exciting times. It is also a time when students may find themselves or others in a high-risk situation. There is evidence indicating an increased risk for alcohol poisoning, sexual assault and hazing around certain times of the academic year, including the first six weeks of school. Fall 2019 presents a unique situation in which Clemson Football will play Georgia Tech in the evening on Thursday, August 29.

You play a critical role because of your frequent interaction with students. We encourage you to have intentional conversations with your students about potentially high-risk situations.

Here are some talking points to help guide your conversations:

- Remember, not everyone drinks. 46% of Clemson first-year students reported not consuming alcohol any in the past month (National College Health Assessment, 2018).
  - Encourage students with this fact. There are many ways to have fun and meet people without alcohol.
- Many first-year students don’t have strong social connections when they arrive on campus, which is one reason the first six weeks of school are concerning. Because many students haven’t developed those close relationships yet, they don’t always feel like they have someone to count on if they get in trouble or need assistance.
  - Encourage every student to look out for others and step up as an active bystander.
- Encourage students to celebrate safely if they choose to go out:
  - **Before you go out**
    - Choose a buddy
    - Plan how you will get home: sober driver, CATbus or rideshare
    - Plan a meet-up spot in case you get separated
    - Charge your phone, turn up the volume and check it frequently
    - Download and familiarize yourself with the RAVE Guardian app
    - Set a safety timer, so your friends know when you’ll be home
    - Know the signs of alcohol poisoning: vomiting, confusion, slow and/or irregular breathing, blue or pale skin, low body temperature, and unconsciousness or inability to stay conscious
    - If you choose to drink:
      - Plan not to exceed a certain number of drinks
      - Eat before and during drinking
      - Choose not to pre-game
  - **While you’re out**
    - Socialize without needing to consume alcohol
    - Hydrate with water to avoid heat exhaustion
    - Check in with friends regularly
    - Recognize when someone’s in trouble, and step up to help
    - Call 911 if you need help to safely handle a situation
    - If you choose to drink:
      - Keep track of the number of drinks you consume
      - Alternate with water
      - Eat before and during drinking
      - Know what’s in your drink
      - Choose not to play drinking games
      - Don’t pressure others to drink
  - **At the end of the day**
    - Never leave a friend behind
    - Go with a group, don’t go alone
    - Share a safe ride home with a sober driver
    - If using a rideshare, **Stop Ask Match Inform**
    - Let friends know you got home safely
    - Use the safety timer in the RAVE Guardian app
    - Call 911 immediately if someone is passed out and unresponsive
    - Do not wait for all symptoms of alcohol poisoning to be present
    - Turn the person on their side
    - Do not give the person any food or beverages
    - Stay with the person until help arrives
    - Remember MAAP: students seeking assistance during an alcohol-related emergency will not be charged or sanctioned for violations of the university’s alcohol policies

[clemson.edu/celebratesafely](clemson.edu/celebratesafely)