February 21, 2019

Dear Students:

Mardi Gras, or Carnival, is an exciting time, particularly in a culturally rich location like New Orleans. It is important to have a plan in place prior to Mardi Gras in order to stay safe and have a great time. If this is your first Mardi Gras, it’s important to know the city changes tremendously. Over 1.2 million people come to New Orleans to join the celebration; this is 3.5 times the population of New Orleans. Campus Health has created a resource page to help you navigate Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

During this time, it is imperative that you make a plan and remain vigilant regarding your personal safety. Remember, when you leave campus, you are representing Tulane. When traveling to and from parades, please respect private property and do not trespass for any reason. The popular parade watching spots along the uptown routes are filled with families enjoying Mardi Gras, so please make sure your conduct is respectful and appropriate. When at a parade or off-campus location, please remember to report any emergencies directly to the NOPD by dialing 911, as heavy congestion and traffic may limit the ability of TUPD to respond to off-campus locations. You are still encouraged to follow-up with TUPD. Here are some additional safety tips to make sure you have a fun and safe Mardi Gras.

Students living on-campus are limited to one guest during Mardi Gras. Guests must be pre-registered with Housing & Residence Life by February 22, 2019. During the time of their visit, guests must wear an identifying armband. For more information, please visit the Housing & Residence Life website. Failure to properly register your guest will result in monetary and student conduct consequences. If you live off campus, please be considerate of your neighbors and refrain from engaging in disruptive behavior.

Parades may make travel difficult for hours before and after a parade. It is important that you plan accordingly. If you depend on University Shuttles for transportation, please note that there will be a modified shuttle schedule from Thursday, February 28 through Tuesday, March 4th. Please consult the Mardi Gras website for up to date information. The Department of Shuttles and Transportation and the Division of Student Affairs will be sponsoring free Mardi Gras shuttles to and from the parade route for Tulane students Thursday, February 28 – Sunday, March 3. Students who wish to ride the shuttle must register on OrgSync by Monday, February 25 at noon. Registration does not guarantee a specific departure time. Departure will be first-come, first-served.

Tulane University recognizes a Mardi Gras Break on the academic calendar, thus most offices at the University will be closed from 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1st through 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6th. The hours of operation for the Mardi Gras weekend are listed on the Mardi Gras website. Please pay special attention to the on-campus dining hours and options during this time period and plan accordingly.

Remember, TUPD and Student Affairs have staff on-call to respond to emergencies during this time. If you need to reach TUPD, contact 504-865-5911 or call the Student Affairs On-Call staff member at 504-920-9900.

Sincerely,

J. Davidson “Dusty” Porter, Ph.D.
Vice President of Student Affairs

Kirk Bouyelas
Chief of Police