Dear Parents and Families,

With the New England Patriots playing in Super Bowl LIII this Sunday, February 3, I am reaching out to share a potentially challenging aspect of campus life with you.

Most of you are aware of the events on campus following the Patriots’ loss in the Super Bowl last year. Some students engaged in unruly behavior and put themselves and others in danger.

Related to these concerns, the email below was sent to our on campus students. Off campus students also received an email explaining the guest policy and informing them that they will not be permitted to visit campus residences during the Super Bowl.

While we know the vast majority of our students make responsible choices every day, I am asking that you reach out to your student concerning their plans for this weekend. Check in with them and ask if they are making responsible decisions, communicate your family values, and reinforce the importance of upholding community standards, both on and off campus.

It is particularly important that students understand the significance of a Dispersal Order. When students congregate and celebrate responsibly, intervention is not required. If, however, they become involved in a disturbance and engage in unlawful activity, intervention is required. In the past, some students have been attracted to these gatherings and, in the moment, exercised poor judgment.

If it becomes necessary, law enforcement will give a clear Dispersal Order over a loudspeaker, instructing students to return to their residence halls. Students who do not leave the area will be subject to arrest.

Once a dispersal order is given, there is no such thing as “just standing around and watching.”

Again, the majority of our students make responsible choices every day, and we want to ensure everyone’s safety. For weekend events and updates, please follow our Safety Site. I thank you for partnering with us to create an enjoyable and supportive community for your student.

Sincerely,
Enku Gelaye
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life

Dear On-Campus Student,

The personal safety of every member of our campus community is of primary importance to all of us. As we begin a new semester, we are writing to share some information related to residence hall security.

Residence Hall Security (RHS) is a collaborative effort between Residential Life and the UMass Police Department. The work performed by RHS student employees with the aid of security cameras, the electronic card access security system, and the guest management system strengthens the security of the residential areas, providing a safer environment for the UMass student body. You will see RHS staff in your residence hall every evening beginning at 8 p.m. They are working to keep our community safe and need your cooperation and respect to do their jobs well.

Electronic Guest Management is used by Residence Hall Security staff to verify residency and to sign in guests. Your UCard will be used to verify your residential status using the system. Your UMass student guests will also use their UCard and system to register as your guest. Non-UMass visitors will require a photo identification and will need to fully register in the system the first time they are a guest; subsequent visits will require that the non-UMass ID be presented to have their record recalled and verified by the security monitor.

When your guests leave the residence hall, they should sign out with the Residence Hall Security staff. The electronic guest management system will enforce the limit of 4 guests per person, per night, to a maximum of 10 in any living unit (room, suite or apartment). Students with restrictions imposed by the
Dean of Students or the UMass Police Department will be flagged and not permitted to be signed in as guests.

**Please remember you are responsible for the behavior of your guests.** You should carefully consider who you invite to visit you on campus and who you sign into the residence hall as your guest. **To understand your rights and responsibilities as a host, please read the guests section of the Residential Life Community Standards.**

**Throughout the academic year, residence hall security hours may be extended and guest policies adjusted** for major athletic events, and weekends when a large number of guests are anticipated. Residential students will be notified when guest policies are adjusted. **Again, please review the sections on guests and on safety and security in the Residential Life Community Standards.**

The university will adjust the guest policy for the Super Bowl and the weekend prior to spring break as follows:

**Beginning Sunday, February 3 at noon and continuing through Monday, February 4 at 8 a.m.,** UMass Amherst residential students will be allowed to sign in up to four (4) guests who reside in the same residential area as the host. For example, residents of Northeast may only host guests who also live in Northeast. No other guests, from either on-campus or off-campus, will be allowed into the residence halls. Residence Hall security desk hours will be expanded in residence halls on Sunday, February 3.

**Beginning Thursday, February 28 at 8 p.m. and continuing through Sunday, March 3 at 11 p.m.,** residential students may sign in up to four (4) UMass Amherst students as guests. Only UMass Amherst students, faculty, staff, and emergency/health care response staff will be allowed in UMass Amherst Residence Halls during this period. Non-UMass Amherst guests should be checked out by 8 p.m. on Thursday February 28. Residence hall security desk hours will be expanded in residence halls from February 28 to March 3.

We thank you in advance for your active participation and support as we all work to make the campus community a safe and caring environment.

Sincerely,

Jean Ahlstrand MacKimmie, Director of Residence Education
James Meade, Residence Hall Security Manager

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