

St. Patrick's Day is a chance to celebrate Irish heritage, the color green, and a time for fun with friends and family. Many will be wear green T-shirts, leprechaun hats and shamrock socks for a day of celebration.

If you are going out for St. Patrick's Day or planning a house party, be sure to have a plan in place. Remember these tips:

- Don't bring valuables to any celebration. Only bring with you what is necessary, such as your driver's license, money, a phone and shamrock necklaces;
- If you're attending an event with a large crowd, be aware of your surroundings and locate where you can go for help if necessary;
- If you plan on drinking, do not drive. Protect yourself and others by having a designated driver or call a taxi;
- If you are the designated driver, watch out for intoxicated walkers who may not pay attention to lights or crosswalks;
- If going out with a group of friends, "buddy up" to make sure everyone returns home safely;
- Stay hydrated and make sure to eat. Don't drink on an empty stomach (eat a corned beef sandwich!) and definitely consume water or non-alcoholic beverages;
- Do not leave drinks unattended. Finish your drinks before going to the restroom or leave it with a trusted friend;
- If you become separated from your group, don't wander off alone. Call a friend or a taxi company;
- Have phone numbers handy for a cab company, emergency contacts and poison control.