

Public Health Best Practices for a Safe and Fun 2020 Halloween

Please enjoy any Halloween activities that you may participate in, in a safe manner. The following guidance is meant to help keep contagion low and still have fun. *

General Recommendations

- WEAR A MASK/FACE COVERING. (When you are close to other individuals and a face covering will not conflict with the costume). Remember within 6 feet and 10 minutes is considered a close contact.
- For trick or treaters and candy givers, use hand sanitizer, as needed.
- If you or anyone in your household aren't feeling well, has Covid-19 related symptoms, has a temperature, tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 14 days or waiting on a result from a Covid-19 test, or traveled to a state that is on the self-quarantine list you should not participate in trick or treating.
- Parental/guardian supervision is highly recommended for all minors.
- Wear something reflective, carry a flashlight or glow stick to see where you are going and to be seen by motorists.
- Cross streets carefully and, when possible, in designated crosswalks.
- Create a plan and set expectations with your child before going trick or treating.
 - o Set a designated timeframe and duration to trick or treat
 - o Set distance parameters of where you will trick or treat
 - o Discuss safety precautions
 - o Practice good hygiene using alcohol based hand sanitizer
- * Currently CDC guidance is does not recommend going house to house, however, following the guidelines within this document will help keep the risk low for COVID being spread from person to person.

Trick or Treaters:

- Never go inside someone's house while trick or treating.
- When possible, go with household members or family members you have been in constant contact with. Try to avoid gathering with schoolmates or friends you may not have seen in a while.
- Maintain your 6 feet of social distancing
- Try trick or treating on your block or in close proximity to your home. It is recommended to not travel into another community to trick or treat and it is preferred to stay in your neighborhood.
- If possible try to incorporate your mask into your costume. Do not alter your mask/face covering used for COVID protection so it will not become ineffective or dangerous to wear.
- Costume masks are not the same as cloth or fabric protective masks/face coverings.

Public Health Best Practices for a Safe and Fun 2020 Halloween

- Only accept candy that comes in a factory sealed wrapper or bag. Parents should check the wrapper before being consumed.
- Wash your hands or bring hand sanitizers with you while trick or treating to clean your hands often.
- When you see another group of trick or treaters at a door step wait on the sidewalk until the group received their candy and moves on to the next home.
- Purchase your own candy and give your child a piece at each participating house if you don't feel comfortable allowing them to accept candy.

Candy Givers:

- If you will be giving out candy, put the lights on in your home and/or on your doorstep so trick or treaters can identify what homes are participating or not. If you are not participating leave your lights off, or consider putting a sign on your front lawn.
- Avoid passing out candy or having the trick or treaters put their hand in a common container.
- Only provide individually wrapped, factory sealed candy.
- Consider setting up a small table outside and spread out the candy in small quantities so children can take a piece to limit contact, replenish as needed.
- Consider purchasing one type of candy so the trick or treaters don't have to look or touch other candies before making their selection.
- Consider staying behind a glass storm door and wave to the children as they take their candy so you can keep proper social distancing.

Alternatives to Trick or Treating

- Speak to neighbors and potentially set up a time for trick or treating with proper social distancing.
- Be creative and have fun! Some people have come up with creative ways to distribute candy such as sliding candy down a PVC tube attached to their railing or set up a clothes line!
- Create a candy scavenger hunt for your household members in your house or yard and give your kids clever clues to try to find the candy. Have them wear their costumes while looking!
- Family pumpkin carving contest
- Family Halloween movie night
- Decorate your home

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Information from the CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

High-risk Halloween activities, according to the CDC include the following:

- Door-to-door trick-or-treating/when candy is given directly to children
- Trunk-or-treat events with treats handed out to large groups from trunks of cars
- Indoor costume parties
- Indoor haunted houses
- Hayrides/tractor rides with people who are not in your household
- Going to a fall festival outside your community