

Tips for Halloween

9/28/20

When planning Halloween activities, follow the basics of COVID prevention: limit close contact with people outside of your household, limit touching points, and practice good hand hygiene.

Trick-or-treating

Trick-or-treating could increase the spread of COVID. Door-to-door trick-or-treating will likely bring people into close contact, especially if people gather and cluster on doorsteps, apartment hallways, and walkways and are not wearing protective face coverings. **While COVID-19 continues to spread in our community, Public Health is encouraging other options.**

If you are thinking about trick-or-treating, here are some things to consider:

- **Reduce risk in how you hand out treats.** For example:
 - Use tape to mark waiting spots 6 feet apart (2 meters) on the way up to your door.
 - Give out candy from a distance, like:
 - slide the candy down a wrapping paper tube into their trick-or-treat bags
 - Individually wrap goodie bags and line them up outside for families to grab and go.
 - Wear a mask when you answer the door for trick-or-treaters.
- **Wear masks that snugly covers the nose and mouth as part of the Halloween costume.** Avoid plastic masks with holes. Make sure kids wear their masks while trick-or-treating.
- **Make sure everyone stays at least six feet (2 meters) apart from others.** If you can't keep physical distance, avoid activities like trick-or-treating or going to a crowded pumpkin patch.
- **Wash your hands thoroughly when you get home.** Carry hand sanitizer so that kids can clean their hands while trick-or-treating.
- **Set aside any candy you collected outside your household for 24 hours before allowing children to handle it.** Purchase some candy in advance so your kids can eat it that same day.

Other Halloween activities

We recommend these safer options. If you do have any social gathering, keep it small and on a shorter time frame (the fewer people and shorter the time, the safer it is).

Activities with lower risks of COVID-19 include:

- Organize an outdoor neighborhood or apartment complex costume parade with social distancing.
- Decorate yards, your apartment complex, or your neighborhood.
- Hold a virtual costume party online.
- Exchange candy with families you know by dropping off candy at their doorstep.
- Hide candy in your home for your kids to find.
- Have a small, outdoor costume party where people from different households stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart and wear masks.
- Have a spooky movie night or Halloween craft party with the family.

For older youth and adults:

- Avoid house parties and bars, where the risk is highest for the spread of COVID.
- Keep any gatherings small, outdoors when possible or in well-ventilated spaces.
- Incorporate a mask that covers your nose and mouth snugly into your costume.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween