**Halloween 2020: Make it Safe. Keep it Fun.**

Traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses like COVID-19. But there are several ways to celebrate Halloween, while keeping our communities safe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) outlines risk levels of traditional and modified activities to make this Halloween different, but memorable.

Tammy Lundstrom, senior vice president and Chief Medical Officer, said, "Traditional trick-or-treating is high-risk because of the close contact of those handing out candy, and trick-or-treaters. Plan ahead to make Halloween safe through low- or moderate-risk activities such as a virtual Halloween costume contest, or one-way trick-or-treating."

Low- and moderate-risk activities can be enjoyed if everyone uses safe behaviors including wearing a mask that covers your mouth and nose, maintaining a physical distance of six feet and washing hands often.

Lower risk activities

* Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
* Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
* Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
* Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
* Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
* Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
* Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

Moderate risk activities

* Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
  + If you are preparing goodie bags, [wash your hands](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html) with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
* Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than six feet apart
* Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than six feet apart
  + A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn’t leave gaps around the face.
  + Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.
* Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
  + If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
* Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing
* Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least 6 feet apart
  + If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
  + Lower your risk by following CDC’s recommendations on [hosting gatherings or cook-outs](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/personal-social-activities.html#gatherings).

High risk activities

Avoid these higher risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

* Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door
* Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots
* Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
* Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
* Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
* Using [alcohol or drugs](https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/index.htm), which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors
* Traveling to a [rural](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/other-at-risk-populations/rural-communities.html) fall festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19

**If you do Trick or Treat, follow these guidelines to stay safe.**

**Trick or treaters**

* Do not trick or treat if you are sick.
* Wear a mask—a costume mask should not be used in place of a cloth face covering.
* Trick or treat with people you live with.
* Follow the direction of traffic to maintain one-way trick-or-treating
* Remain 6 feet apart from people not in your household.
* Do not take candy or treats directly from people.
* Wash your hands, or use hand sanitizer, frequently.

**Homeowners**

* Do not hand out candy if you are sick.
* Do not hand out candy or treats directly to trick or treaters.
* Encourage one-way trick-or-treating in your neighborhood.
* Line up candy in an open area, like a driveway, in pre-packaged bags, or throw candy to sidewalks to avoid contact.
* Wear a mask, keep your distance and wash your hands frequently.

**Parents**

* Talk with your children about safety and social distancing guidelines and expectations.
* Guide children to stay on the right side of the road always to ensure distance and one-way trick-or-treating.
* Carry a flashlight at night and ensure your children have reflective clothing.
* Wear a mask, keep your distance and wash your hands frequently.
* Inspect candy.