



## Community Talking Points

Oct. 13, 2020

- Families should approach trick-or-treat differently this year in order to reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19. Here are some suggestions for enjoying a safe Halloween:
  - Avoid having children select their own treats from a bowl or common container.
  - Limit the number of houses you visit and ask your children to stay as far as possible from anyone you don't live with. Celebrate Halloween in your own community, and don't visit other areas.
  - Wipe off candy wrappers with sanitizing wipes, and allow children to eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid homemade treats made by strangers.
  - If your child is at greater risk of serious illness from COVID-19, contact your doctor before allowing participation in Halloween activities. Decorating your home and hiding treats can be a fun alternative to trick-or-treating.
  - A costume mask is not a safe 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 could become hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.
  
- If you will host trick-or-treaters at your house, take steps to make it safer:
  - Make it contactless. Place treats or individual goodie bags on your porch, steps or a table in the driveway, or hang treats from a wall or fence.
  - Greet trick-or-treaters from behind a storm door or window.
  - Use creative decorations to create a buffer on your porch.
  
- Party hosts, if you're looking to celebrate this season, follow these tips for a safer event:
  - Do not hold large, in-person Halloween parties. Instead have smaller parties to limit your gathering to no more than 10 people, preferably outside or in larger indoor spaces with ventilation. If you decide to have several parties, be sure to clean and sanitize between groups.
  - If you will have food, it's safer to have prepackaged single-serving food and drinks and disposable utensils. Consider having guests bring their own food and beverages.
  - Practice social distancing and offer plenty of hand sanitizer.
  - Avoid activities such as bobbing for apples that foster the spread of infection.
  
- Going to a Halloween gathering? Here are some tips to make it safer:
  - Don't go if you feel sick at all. Be sure to check your temperature before you leave the house and monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.
  - Avoid parties that will have more than 10 people.
  - Think about bringing your own food or drink. Avoid potluck or family-style meals.

- Wear a face covering, bring hand sanitizer and keep your distance from people who are not part of your household.
- Consider safer, socially distant ways to celebrate that don't put you in close contact with other people, such as:
  - Having a virtual costume party or pumpkin-carving 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.