



Detroit Health Department Public Guidance - Halloween 2020

No matter how you choose to celebrate Halloween this year, if you leave your home, **wear a mask and practice social distancing.**

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween.

If you have COVID-19 or may have been exposed to someone with the virus, you should avoid in-person Halloween festivities and forego handing out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Mask Guidance

- A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask.
- A costume mask should not be used in lieu of a cloth mask 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; it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe.
- Consider wearing a Halloween-themed cloth mask.

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 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 social distancing.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced.
- Attending a costume party outdoors with protective masks and distancing
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted walk with masks and distancing.
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family and friends with distancing.

Higher-risk activities

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

- Traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door.
- Attending trunk-or-treat events where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in a parking lot.
- Attending crowded indoor costume parties.
- Visiting indoor haunted houses 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, which can cloud judgment and increase risky behaviors.

**To best way to stop the spread of COVID-19
this Halloween is to remain home.**

Trick-or-treating

If you are considering trick-or-treating, here is guidance to keep in mind:

- **If you are going door to door (or trunk to trunk), remember there are certain ways you can keep yourself and others healthy.** First and foremost, if you are in any way feeling sick, stay home. Consider doing a temperature check or monitoring you and your children for any COVID-19-related symptoms for before heading out.
- **Practice social distancing if you do choose to walk around the neighborhood.** This includes not standing on people's porches or waiting to receive a treat for a long period of time. Walk only with your family. The closer contact with others creates a greater risk of spreading COVID-19.
- **Remember to wear your mask!** Make sure you wear a cloth mask that covers both your nose and mouth and follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Be cautious to not wear a cloth mask under your Halloween costume mask as it could cause difficulty breathing. Try to incorporate the CDC-recommended mask as a part of your costume.
- **You should not forget regular Halloween safety.** Inspect candy before the children are allowed to eat it. Carry a flashlight with you and have children wear reflective

clothing. Look both ways when crossing the road! We all have an extra amount on our minds this year, but don't forget the normal safety tips too!

- **When you get home, WASH YOUR HANDS!** Have pre-made cookies or other treats ready for your kids so you can place the candy from trick-or-treating in place where it won't be touched for 24 hours.
- **When you pass out candy, you can do your part as well.** If you feel under the weather at all, please sit this Halloween out. If you choose to pass out candy, place a distribution table between yourself and where kids will walk up to your door. Put small bags of candy or treats on the disinfected table to eliminate any contact.
- **Set up markers leading to your door 6 feet apart.** To remind trick-or-treaters to remain socially distant, you can set up cones, or mark X's on your driveway or sidewalk. If you're creative, you can use your Halloween decorations to help guide walkers. Think of other fun ways to hand out treats while you maintain that 6-foot distance. And of course, **don't forget your mask!**

Alternatives to consider

The main way to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to stay safe at home this year. Here are a few suggestions to remain in that Halloween spirit while you stay home with your family:

- **While we are living in the virtual age, why not keep it going with an online Halloween party?** Plan a virtual call with other family members or your children's friends. You could show off your costumes to each other and decide who had the best one. In the friendly spirit of competition, find out who is the artist of the group when you carve pumpkins together.
- **If you still feel like getting out of the house, its best to stay in your costume car.** Decorate your car with decorations from around the house and visit friends in the neighborhood to show it off!
- **Cooking Halloween-themed meals is a great way to get kids involved with festivities.** Having them help prepare a spooky dish will give them something to do and teach a new life skill too.
- **Take your house decoration to the next level this year.** Staying home can be fun when it has great looking decorations up! Having the whole family help put out things around the house and the lawn is a great activity to do together.
- **Have you heard of the trick or treat swap?** Instead of going out, have some of your friends and family drive by your house to throw candy or other treats from their car to your family in the driveway.
- **Trick-or-treat scavenger hunt inside your home.**
- **Spooky movie night!**

6 Rules for Children Who Choose to Trick-or-Treat

1. If you are in any way feeling sick, stay home.
2. While walking, walk only with your family.
3. Keep 6 feet from others as you approach porches. Wait 6 feet away off the porch for those ahead of you to leave.
4. Wear your mask that covers both nose and mouth. Do not wear a cloth mask under your Halloween costume mask as it could cause difficulty breathing.
5. Do not reach into a bag of candy. It will potentially spread your germs to others. Let the candy giver place the candy in your bag.

6. When you get home, wash your hands. Set the candy aside for 24 hours before eating (have pre-made cookies or other treats ready for your kids)

6 Rules for Adults Who Pass out Halloween Candy

1. If you are in any way feeling sick, turn your porch light off and don't participate.
2. Wear your mask that covers both nose and mouth.
3. Place a distribution table between yourself and where kids will walk up to your door.
4. Use gloves in handling candy.
5. Put small bags of candy or treats spaced out on the disinfected table so children only touch the candy they take for themselves.
6. Set up markers leading to your door 6 feet apart. To remind trick-or-treaters to remain socially distant, you can set up cones, or mark X's on your driveway or sidewalk.