

The following guidelines comes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website. Please consult them to stay safe through the upcoming holidays. With rising infection rates in 80% of the states across the country, safety strategies are so important. You can find the full posting on the following links:

Halloween:

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

Holidays in general including Fall Holiday celebrations:

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

Halloween

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Lower risk activities

These lower risk activities can be safe alternatives:

- 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](#) 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 6 feet apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 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](#).

Higher 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](#), which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors
- Traveling to a [rural](#) fall festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19

Trick or Treating & Other Halloween Activities

Steps to Take when Trick or Treating

Traditional Halloween activities are fun, but some can increase the risk of getting or spreading [COVID-19](#) or [influenza](#). Plan alternate ways to participate in Halloween.

Make trick-or-treating safer

- Avoid direct contact with trick-or-treaters.
- Give out treats outdoors, if possible.
- Set up a station with individually bagged treats for kids to take.

Wear a mask

- Make your cloth [mask](#) part of your costume.
- A costume mask is **not** a substitute for a cloth mask.

- Do **NOT** wear a costume mask over a cloth mask. It can make breathing more difficult.
- Masks should **NOT** be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing

Wash your hands

- Bring [hand sanitizer](#) (at least 60% alcohol) with you and use it after touching objects or other people.
- Parents: supervise young children using hand sanitizer.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home and before you eat any treats.

Steps to Take for Other Halloween Activities

Enjoy Halloween activities and take steps to protect yourself from getting or spreading [COVID-19](#).

Remember to always

- Wear a cloth [mask](#)
- Indoors and outdoors, stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you
- Wash your hands or use [hand sanitizer](#) frequently

Other Ideas

- Hide Halloween treats in and around your house. Hold a Halloween treat hunt with household members.
- Hold an outdoor costume parade or contest so everyone can show off their costumes.
- Decorate your home for Halloween.
- Carve pumpkins with members of your household or outside with neighbors or friends.
- Host an outdoor Halloween movie night with friends or neighbors or an indoor movie night with your household members.
- Walk from house to house, admiring Halloween decorations at a distance.