

2021 BEST PRACTICES FOR HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES DURING COVID-19

If you are not fully vaccinated and aged 2 or older, you should wear a mask in indoor public places.

In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings. However, in areas with [high numbers of COVID-19 cases](#), consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with [close contact](#) with others who are not fully vaccinated.

- You might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission or your vaccination status if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if a member of your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated.
- [If you are fully vaccinated](#), to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#).
- Have conversations ahead of time to understand expectations for celebrating together.
- Know when to [wear a mask](#).
- Do not attend or host a gathering if you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19.
- If celebrating indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors, if possible based on weather.

TRICK-OR-TREATERS

- Stay home if sick.
- Keep your trick-or-treating group small with family or close friends.
- Remain 6-feet apart from other trick-or-treaters outside your group.
- Limit the amount of time you spend at each house.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- When indoors and unable to maintain 6-feet apart from others, wear a face covering over BOTH your mouth and nose. made of two or more layers of breathable fabric **NOTE: Do not wear a costume mask over a cloth mask. It can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe.**
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then wash your hands.
- Hand sanitize (with sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol) frequently while out, especially during key times like before eating or after coughing/sneezing.
- Wash your hands when returning home and again, before you enjoy the candy.

HOMEOWNERS

- Do not hand out candy if you are sick.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, wear a face covering over BOTH your mouth and nose when handing out treats.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Consider alternative ways to hand out candy, such as a drive-by or leaving candy spread out on a table.
- If participating in handing out candy from your front door, consider the following:
 - Position a distribution table between yourself and trick-or-treaters to create 6-foot of distance apart from others.
 - Creating grab-and-go candy bags instead of a communal bowl.

***If you are not comfortable handing out candy, consider leaving out a bowl of candy and turn off your lights.*

PARENTS

- Stay home if sick.
- Encourage your neighbors to participate in alternative trick-or-treating (drive-by, car parade).
- 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.
- Carry a flashlight at if trick-or-treating after dark.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, wear a face covering over BOTH your mouth and nose when you are unable to maintain 6-feet apart from others outside your group.
- Wash your hands as soon as you return home.
- Encourage your children to unwrap candy, throw out the wrapper, and wash their hands before eating it.

***Do not use a cleaning product to wipe down the candy. If you want to take extra precaution, let the candy sit for 72 hours before handling and the virus will die naturally. Source: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/new-coronavirus-stable-hours-surfaces>.*

HALLOWEEN PARTIES

- Consider alternative gatherings, such as parties on a virtual platform or a car parade in your neighborhood.
- If you're hosting an in-person event, please consider the following:
 - Move the party outside or increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent that is safe and feasible based on weather.
 - Limit the guest list to family and close friends.
 - Ask guests not to attend the party if they're experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or if they've been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
 - Wear a face covering over your nose AND mouth.
 - Encourage guests outside your household to maintain a 6-foot distance and wear a face covering if unable to do so.

- Before and after the party, homeowners should clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces, particularly in bathrooms and food preparation spaces (TV remotes, tables, doorknobs, handrails, telephones, light switches, etc.).
 - If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
 - For disinfection, use EPA-registered household disinfectants and follow the manufacturer's instructions (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).
 - For more information on methods & products:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html>
 - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- If you attend an in-person Halloween party or think that you may have been exposed, take extra precautions for 14 days after the event. If you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, contact your doctor for evaluation and testing guidance.
- If you've had [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19, you should get tested 3-5 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative. You should isolate for 10 days if your test result is positive.

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