

Halloween Safety Tips to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

Halloween is around the corner and this guide will provide tips to keep you and your friends and family safe and healthy. The best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 is for everyone to limit their contact with others and follow COVID-19 tips to stay safe. Older adults and people with medical conditions should still stay at home to reduce their risk.

Use caution and care during Halloween - avoid large parties and events and stay safe while trick-or-treating by avoiding close contact with people outside of your household. While many places have decided to cancel their annual events, others are working to alter traditional events to make them smaller and limit contact and others are moving the fun online. Check with your community organizations and city to see what fun might be around the corner and keep the tips below in mind as you plan any Halloween activities.

If you decide to go out on Halloween, consider getting tested seven days after Halloween and [staying home and away from others for 14 days after](#) to protect your friends and family in case you were around someone with COVID-19 and did not know. Remember, you can get COVID-19 without having symptoms. If you have symptoms, get tested right away. Find free testing sites at www.tchd.org/COVID-19Testing.

Your Neighborhood Guide to Handing Out Treats for a Safe Halloween

1. Keep everyone from separate households six feet apart
 - Greet trick-or-treaters from at least 6 feet away.
 - Use tape to mark six-foot spots for families to stand while picking up their candy.
 - Set up a treat table (refer to #2 below). Your treat table could be at the end of your driveway providing a safe way for kids to take individual treat bags. Be on the other side of the table with your mask on or wave from your door or other socially distanced area.
 - Talk to those in your home to see other ways you can stay six feet apart from people not in your household.
2. Handle the treats you give out with care
 - Have your treats wrapped in individual treat bags. When creating the treat bags, be sure to wash your hands, and clean and sanitize your workspace before you get started.
 - Do not prepare treats if you are ill.
 - Do not have a bowl of candy that everyone reaches into. Provide individual treat bags to children.
 - Only use pre-packaged candy – this is always a good precaution for Halloween and especially important this year.
3. Wear your cloth face masks over your mouth and nose
 - A mask that covers your mouth and nose reduces droplets and the spread of viruses, including COVID-19 and flu. Wear your mask in indoor public spaces and outdoors if you cannot keep 6 feet apart from others.
 - Masks can be part of a costume or not, but either way it will make everyone safer.
4. Host gatherings with a small group

- The safest way to have close friends and family over to your house is by inviting less than 10 people over, social distance, wear masks, and give guests their own utensils and plates. Host your event outside or open your windows to increase ventilation. Remind everyone to keep in mind the COVID-19 basics when celebrating at your home: stay socially distanced; clean and sanitize often wear masks; wash hands often; and, screen yourself for symptoms and stay home if you are sick.

Tips for Kids Going Trick-or-Treating

1. Make and wear a cloth face mask part of your family's costumes. Remind kids to avoid touching their mask.
2. Take hand sanitizer with you and use it frequently.
3. Keep your group small (under 10 people) and make a limit of how many houses you will visit. Consider going with another family you already spend time with, or only go to homes of those who you are already close with. Make it fun by making a treasure map of the houses you plan to visit on your street/in your neighborhood.
4. Stay outside – do not go inside other homes to get your treats.
5. Stay at least six feet away from other people not in your household. Before leaving your house, talk to your kids about not rushing a house door or grabbing candy. If you arrive at a home and another group is at the door, stay back on the sidewalk and wait until you can reach the house without coming within six feet of others.
6. Before eating Halloween candy, go through it to make sure everything is sealed. Throw away anything that has been opened. Wash your hands before and after eating candy.
7. Wash hands as soon as you get home.

8 Ideas for a Safer Way to Celebrate Halloween

1. Have a family scary movie marathon.
2. Host a costume contest with friends and family. Keep things outdoors, in small groups and socially distanced or try a virtual or drive-by contest.
3. Hide treats around the house or outdoors for your kids (or other adults) to find. You can even try a spooky scavenger hunt.
4. Have a family pumpkin-carving contest. Keep things outdoors and socially distanced or have a virtual contest.
5. Have a family Monster Mash Dance Party (with costumes!). Consider inviting others to participate virtually.
6. Have small-group trunk-or-treat style trick-or-treating with friends and family. Think about having a small in-person costume parade, too.
7. Avoid indoor trick-or-treating settings or events that typically draw larger crowds where it could be hard to stay six feet apart.
8. Call ahead to check COVID-19 precautions if you plan on going to Halloween activities, like at haunted houses, farms, pumpkin patches, or a corn maze.

Trick-or-treating and other activities that increase the number of people you come into close contact with, such as a Trick or Treat Street or Trunk or Treat Event, can increase your risk of being exposed to and getting COVID-19.

Remember, we want to keep everyone safe but we can still have fun this Halloween by practicing good hygiene, wearing a mask, social distancing, and staying home if you are sick. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#) and get the most up-to-date COVID-19 resources at www.tchd.org/COVID-19.