

BE SAFE AND HAVE FUN ON

ORANGE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

HALLOWEEN!

Safer, Alternative Ways to Participate in 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.

This guidance discourages traditional trick-or-treating or trunk-and-treating where treats are handed to children.

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

NOTE: 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](#).

High 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 parking lots
- Attending crowded costume parties that are 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



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Are Household and Family the Same?

The people with whom you live are your **household**. Your household may be thought of as a “germ bubble” in that you share germs and protect your bubble from outside germs. Your household may contain family members or you may live with people who are not related to you. **Family** are all the people you are related to, whether or not they live with you.



During the pandemic it is important to wear a mask and stay six feet apart from people who are not part of your household.

Every household within your extended family has a different risk of exposure to coronavirus. For instance, if someone in your family works in a place where he or she frequently interacts with people who are sick, like a hospital, or if they are a frontline worker, or have a child who attends a daycare, his or her risk of exposure to COVID-19 is likely higher. An important part of gathering in a small group during this pandemic is doing so outdoors — in your backyard, for example. Even though you’re outside and even though you’re around family, you still need to maintain social distancing.

While having a conversation, remember that six feet is probably further than you think — about two arm’s lengths. You may even want to use tables or other physical barriers as a reminder to keep your distance from family members that aren’t a part of your household.

Remember Pedestrian Safety

The same pedestrian safety recommendations apply to this Halloween. If you chose to go out at night, remember:

- Be seen! Carry glow sticks or flashlights and wear light colored clothing.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. Be sure to cross the street using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Watch for cars turning or backing up.

When you do go out, be sure to remember these three important things:



**WEAR a cloth
face covering.**



**WAIT at least 6 feet apart
from others at all times.**



**WASH your hands often
or use hand sanitizer.**

Sources:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>
- <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Fall-Events.pdf>
- <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Halloween.pdf>