

Halloween 2020

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. We have therefore developed these guidelines to help our residents have a safe Halloween.

If you have COVID-19 or are self isolating, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and especially should not hand out treats or sweets to people who visit (eg for “trick-or-treat”.)

No risk activities

These activities can be safe alternatives:

- Carving pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them.
- Decorating your home
- A Halloween scavenger hunt where accompanied children are given lists of Halloween-themed items 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 film night with your household or people in your support bubble.

Moderate risk activities

“No contact” goodie bags - 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 (no more than 6) , outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 2 metres 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 Hallowe'en) 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 2 metres apart. Do not mix outside your households or bubbles.
- 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

High risk activities

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

- Participating in traditional door to door trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children.
- Crowded costume parties held indoors (these are unlawful under the regulations)
- Going to an indoor “haunted house” where people may be crowded together and screaming.
- Using [alcohol or drugs](#), which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviours.

Illegal Activities

Gathering in groups of more than 6 people or multiple households unless as part of a properly organised COVID secure event (by a charity or public body) is illegal and Police can take enforcement action including fines.