



## 2019 Novel Coronavirus [COVID-19]

phd3.idaho.gov/covid19

### Fall Activities and Halloween Guidance

Fall has arrived, and that means football, pumpkin patch trips, yard clean-up parties, and Halloween! Be ready to keep yourself and your loved ones safe. Choose lower risk activities and plan to keep 6' physical distance, wash hands often, and use a cloth face covering when physical distancing is not possible.

*If you do not feel well, have a respiratory or gastrointestinal illness, or 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

- Pumpkin carving and decorating with members of your household
- Pumpkin carving and decorating outdoors with neighbors or friends at a safe distance
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Scavenger hunt for fall-themed things to look for during an outdoor walk
- Virtual Halloween costume contest
- At-home Halloween movie night with household members

#### Moderate-Risk Activities

- Grab and go trick-or-treat goodie bags lined up at the edge of a yard or end of the driveway
- Small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade with physical distancing
- Outdoor costume party where face coverings are used when physical distancing is not possible
  - When choosing a costume mask for Halloween parties, wear masks that snugly cover the nose and mouth as part of the Halloween costume. See the CDC guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>
- Open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest with face coverings and physical distancing
  - \*If people may scream, increase physical distancing to avoid spreading a respiratory virus
- Pumpkin patches or apple picking with your household members using hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks, and staying at least 6 feet from others
- Outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends staying 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](#)

*This document was created 10/01/2020 and was adapted from guidance available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>. Parts also borrowed from Public Health –[Seattle and King County](#)*



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### Higher-Risk Activities

- *Avoid these higher-risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19*
- Door-to-door, traditional trick-or-treating\*
- Trunk-or-treat events with treats handed out from vehicles lined up in crowded parking lots
- Crowded, indoor costume parties
- Indoor haunted house events with large crowds and screaming
- Hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
- Traveling from an area with a high-risk community spread to a rural area for a fall festival or party

### \*Door-to-door traditional trick or treating safety tips

- Choose areas that are not crowded and allow for proper physical distancing
- Wash hands well with soap and warm water upon returning home
- Wash your hands before opening and eating treats
- Avoid touching or removing face coverings while out
- Avoid using large bowls of candy to avoid many people touching the bowl and the candy
- Be creative with ways to hand out candy that will help reduce (but not eliminate) risk such as:
  - Use tape to mark waiting spots 6 feet apart on the way up to your door
  - Find fun ways to hand out candy while staying 6 feet apart
    - Slide the candy down a wrapping paper tube into their trick-or-treat bags
    - Line the edge of your yard or driveway with individual goodie bags
- Wear a cloth face covering when you answer the door for trick-or-treaters
- Wear a cloth face covering when trick-or-treating



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For current COVID-19 information visit <https://phd3.idaho.gov/covid19>. The COVID-19 Hotline is available Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM (208) 455-5411

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