

SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN

October 2020

Holiday Celebrations and COVID-19

The Holiday season is fast approaching and the Safety Director's Office has received several inquiries about traditional Halloween activities. Many traditional Halloween activities can be hi-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 link can provide strong policy guidance for you, your families, and your community. The information has been provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

Some highlights that are discussed in this bulletin:

- Do not use a Halloween costume mask in place of cloth masks, unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers your mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around your face.
- Do not wear a costume mask over a cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.
- Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items, clean and disinfect when feasible, and use EPA-approved disinfectants.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place.

The CDC has categorized Halloween activities into Lower, Moderate, and Higher Risk Activities.

Higher Risk Activities that should be avoided to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus include:

- 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 large parking lots.
- Attending crowded costume parties 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 judgment 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.

Please visit the CDC link for additional information. Take precautions, stay safe, and do your best to enjoy the Holidays!