



Dear Woodcliff Lake Residents,

As we usher in Fall, it is time to think about Halloween. Some of the traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading the Coronavirus – COVID-19. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween this year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers the following guidelines on activities based on low, moderate and high-risk to help protect individuals, their families, friends, and communities from COVID-19. Since the COVID-19 virus circulation varies in communities, these guidelines are meant to supplement, not replace any state or local health and safety laws, rules, and regulations.

If you 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.

Happy Fall Y'all!

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Halloween suggestions for Trick or Treaters

Candy Givers & Alternatives to Trick or Treating

Have a Safe and Fun Time

For Trick or Treaters:

- Porch/Outdoor Light On = Trick or Treat here!
- Porch/Outdoor Light Off = Maybe next year!
- Stay with your family or "pod"
- Practice social distancing (keep at least 6 feet apart from other groups)
- Stay in your immediate neighborhood
- Do not enter someone else's home
- Use hand sanitizer
- Wear a cloth or surgical mask (costume masks do not provide protection)
- Avoid Trick or Treating if you or anyone in your household isn't feeling well, has a fever, or is under quarantine
- Only accept candy that is in factory-sealed packaging

For Candy Givers:

- Porch Light On = Trick or Treat here!
- Porch Light Off = Maybe next year!
- Wear a cloth or surgical mask
- Candy/items should be factory sealed
- Consider spreading out treats on a table or prepare individually sealed bags ahead of time to avoid hands in bowls
- Limit treat choices
- Maintain social distancing (wave to the kids from a distance or from behind a door)
- Provide hand sanitizer for trick or treaters

Alternatives to Trick or Treating

- Costume parade on your block/neighborhood
- Celebrate with your family/pod at home. Wear your costumes!
- Special Halloween – themed dinner at home

CDC Guidelines for Holiday Celebrations "Halloween"

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
 - 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 can 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](#).

Higher 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 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 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



Halloween 2020 Celebration Guidance October 5, 2020

Traditional Halloween celebrations often involve crowds, close contact between individuals, and activities in closed spaces. It is important to plan early and identify safer alternatives for celebrating the fall season. Outdoor activities, as opposed to indoor parties and events, are recommended. Those planning celebrations or participating in Halloween activities should keep in mind public health recommendations of social and physical distancing, wearing masks that cover the nose and mouth, and hand hygiene. Costume masks are not an acceptable substitute for cloth or disposable masks. Individuals should minimize interaction and contact with others who are not a part of their household.

As a reminder, no one should participate in these activities if they or a household member have a known exposure to COVID-19, are sick/symptomatic, or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has not yet met the criteria for discontinuing isolation.

This year, as New Jersey continues to respond to ongoing transmission of COVID-19 in our communities, recommendations for adapting traditional celebrations and considerations for ways to celebrate Halloween safely are listed below. Some communities may choose to cancel Halloween activities, so check with local sources before making plans.

1. Outdoor Door to Door Trick or Treating

- a. **Those who plan to trick-or-treat** should limit their groups to current household members, consider staying local, and limit the number of houses on their route. Social distancing should be practiced between all who are not in the same household.
- b. **For those putting out treats:**
 - i. **Good** option: Limit interaction or contact with trick-or-treaters, wear a mask when individuals come to the door, and regularly wash hands.
 - ii. **Better** option: Leave a treat bowl on a porch or table or in a place where it may be easily accessed while adhering to social distancing requirements.
 - iii. **Best** option: Arrange individually packaged candy so that trick or treaters can grab and go without accessing a shared bowl.
- c. Consider coordinating with neighbors to develop a system, such as signs or on/off porch lights, for distinguishing houses participating in trick-or-treating from those that do not wish to participate.
- d. Wear a face mask to mitigate against COVID-19 exposure. Costume masks are not an acceptable substitute but can be supplemented with a cloth or disposable mask. Children under two should not wear a cloth mask.
- e. Candy should be commercially packaged and non-perishable. Consider individual non-food "treats" to avoid sharing of food.
- f. Practice hand hygiene (wash hands or use hand sanitizer) before leaving your home, after touching objects such as wrapped candy, and when arriving home.

2. **Outdoor Trunk or Treating** (when children go car to car instead of house to house)
 - a. Limit the number of participating cars to ensure adequate space for social distancing and minimize crowds. Ensure outdoor area has sufficient space per car to avoid overcrowding and to allow adequate space for social distancing.
 - b. Follow the outdoor gatherings limitations in effect at the time.
 - c. Design event in a long line, rather than a circle to ensure social and physical distancing to discourage crowding.
 - d. Consider having assigned times or multiple shifts to minimize crowding during event.
 - e. Wear a face mask. Costume masks are not an acceptable substitute but can be supplemented with a cloth or disposable mask. Children under two should not wear a cloth mask.
 - f. Candy should be commercially packaged and non-perishable.
 - g. Practice hand hygiene before the event, after touching objects such as wrapped candy, and after the event.

3. **Halloween Parties**

- a. Avoid large indoor or outdoor parties, which would be subject to the limitations currently in effect on indoor and outdoor gatherings.
 - b. Keep up to date with the most current restrictions on outdoor and indoor gatherings.
 - c. Avoid participation in activities that require close contact and/or shared items such as bobbing for apples

4. **Haunted houses, hayrides, and corn mazes**

- a. Wear a cloth or disposable mask while participating in these activities. As noted above, a costume mask does not suffice.
 - b. Indoor haunted houses should be avoided because of the possibility of congregation and screaming in close quarters. If hosting a haunted house, ensure visitors maintain an appropriate distance by staggering start times and limiting occupancy. A better option would be to host an outdoor haunted house without live performers.
 - c. Hayrides should limit the number of passengers per ride and keep openings to the same party. Any shared materials should be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
 - d. Corn mazes should only permit individuals to proceed in one direction, should limit occupancy according to the applicable restrictions in effect at the time, and should avoid use of shared materials.
 - e. Entities hosting these events are encouraged to take reservations and/or sell tickets in advance.

5. **Examples of socially distant Halloween activities that would require minimal or no additional health and safety protocols include:**

- a. Virtual activities such as online costume parties.
 - b. Drive through events where individuals remain in their vehicles and drive through an area/neighborhood with Halloween displays.
 - c. Carving pumpkins with family.
 - d. Dressing up homes and yards with Halloween themed decorations.
 - e. Halloween themed movie nights with family