



STAY-SAFE HALLOWEEN RECOMMENDATIONS

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

October 10, 2020

With COVID-19 cases spiking around the country, traditional Halloween activities are not recommended by public health experts. There have been 17 new cases in Clear Creek County since the beginning of October. “I know how much the community looks forward to celebrating Halloween with door-to-door trick-or-treating,” says Dr. Timothy Ryan, County Public Health Director, “but it is a high-risk activity that spreads germs and viruses because of the close contact with more people in more places.”

Halloween is not cancelled, but safe variations of traditional Halloween celebrations and activities that follow public health guidance are encouraged.

- Avoid having large groups of people congregating together.
- Avoid indoor settings for any size group activities – it’s always safer to be outside.
- Wear a mask, watch your space and wash your hands.

Adults and children can catch and spread COVID-19 for 14 days after being exposed to the virus. Many people are *asymptomatic*, meaning they feel well and do not have any symptoms, but they have the highly-contagious COVID-19 virus and can easily spread it by handling candy and/or being in close proximity to others.

GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY TRICK-OR-TREAT EVENTS

TRICKERS:

SAFEST IDEA: Do a stay-at-home Halloween activity and don’t go trick-or-treating this year. But if you do:

- Go with your family or co-hort group.
- Promote masks that inhibit the spread of COVID-19 as part of their costume. Surgical-style or other cotton masks that completely and securely cover the nose, mouth and chin are best. Bandanas and gaiters you pull up your neck to cover the lower half of your face are not as effective. Try not to touch the mask.
- While walking and waiting, stay socially distant from other people/groups.
- Use hand sanitizer or wash hands between each house. Hand hygiene is better than glove wearing as a preventive strategy.
- Don’t eat the candy you collect while trick-or-treating. Bring your own snacks if you think you’ll need to munch along the way.
- Implement a CANDY QUARANTINE – don’t touch collected candy for 48 hours – that’s how long the Coronavirus can last on candy-wrapper surfaces.

TREATERS:

SAFEST IDEA: Don’t give out candy to kids outside of your family or co-hort group this year. But if you do:

- Only distribute pre-wrapped candy.
- Wear a mask and gloves when distributing candy.
- Set up stations so kids aren’t clustered.
- Devise a system to deliver candy while staying socially-distanced from the kids, such as a 6-foot tube. Place 6-foot separation markers so everyone can stay safely distanced.



Things are different this year, but it doesn’t mean Halloween can’t be fun – we just have to be more creative! Go to www.clearcreekcounty.us/covid19 for COVID-safe Halloween activity ideas and enter our contest.