



TARRANT COUNTY'S COVID-19 HALLOWEEN GUIDANCE 2020

Fighting the COVID-19 virus is an ongoing battle for everyone in Tarrant County. So it is important everyone do their part during holiday events, gatherings and celebrations to minimize the spread of the virus. The guidelines below are created in accordance with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for holiday celebrations. Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) is sharing this information to help you protect yourself, your family and your community to minimize the spread of the virus.

CELEBRATE A SAFER HALLOWEEN

- ✓ It is strongly recommended to exercise caution when deciding to participate in trick-or-treating and events that put you in close contact with people outside your household.
- ✓ **A protective mask** should be worn always around people who don't live with you (**Do not use costume masks in place of cloth masks**), whether trick-or-treating, passing out treats or attending attractions or events.
- ✓ If you will be hosting a celebration, host it outside if possible.
- ✓ Indoor events are higher risk. You can reduce risks by:
 - Avoiding crowded small areas that are poorly ventilated or fully enclosed indoor spaces where social distancing is difficult
 - Consider opening windows and doors to increase ventilation
 - Limit the number of attendees to fewer people and maintain social distancing (staying six feet apart)
 - Protective masks should be worn by everyone attending if members outside the household are present.

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- ✓ Consider placing treats on porch steps or a table in the driveway with a sign asking children to take only one or use other creative ways to distribute treats, such as using a candy "slide" made of PVC pipe or hanging treats from a wall or fence.
- ✓ During trick-or-treating, parents should limit the number of houses to visit and instruct their children to stay six feet apart from treat-givers. Parents should consider holding the bags for small children.
- ✓ Carry your own hand sanitizer and use it regularly.
- ✓ Children should not be allowed to select their own treats from a bowl/common container unless there is a hand-sanitizing station setup.
- ✓ Wipe off candy wrappers with sanitizing wipes when you arrive home. NOTE: Never wipe unpackaged food with wipes.
- ✓ Allow children to eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid homemade treats made by treat givers.

WHO SHOULD NOT ATTEND OR HOST IN-PERSON HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

- ✓ People with --or that have been exposed to COVID-19-- should not host or participate in any in-person activities:
 - This includes any household member that has been diagnosed with, or has not yet met current recovery criteria established by TCPH.
 - Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle ache, etc.).
 - Anyone waiting on a COVID-19 test result.
 - Anyone who may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- ✓ People at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, or live and work with someone that is at risk of severe illness should:
 - Avoid in person gatherings with people that do not live in the same house.
 - Avoid large gatherings and consider minimal risk activities if attending in-person events.

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COMMUNITY MEMBERS /TREAT-GIVERS

- ✓ Consider prepackaging treats with a sign that instruct kids to take one.
- ✓ Offer treats that are factory packaged. Avoid giving away homemade treats.
- ✓ Consider having sanitizing stations for those participating.
- ✓ Protective masks should be worn always when opening doors to provide treats.
- ✓ Please social distance when providing treats..

WAYS TO CELEBRATE SAFER

Contactless Activities	Minimal Contact Activities
(These lists are not intended to be all inclusive. For additional information refer to: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household. ✓ Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends. ✓ Decorating your home. ✓ Children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to scavenger hunt for while they walk outdoors viewing Halloween decorations from a distance. ✓ Having a virtual Halloween costume contest ✓ Having a Halloween movie night with household members. ✓ Consider holding contest, events and costume parties or pumpkin carving events online, through a video conference. ✓ Have a scavenger hunt trick-or-treat with household members in and around your home. ✓ Attend a drive-thru haunted garage or other Halloween themed event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually-wrapped goodie bags are prepared for families to pick up while social distancing. Note: Individuals preparing goodie bags should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after preparation or use gloves. ✓ Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade or costume party where people are distanced more than six feet apart. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A costume mask does not substitute for a protective mask. ▪ Do not cover a protective mask with a costume mask. The costume mask might make it dangerous to breath, consider using a Halloween-themed protective 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 six feet apart or more distance if screaming is expected. ✓ Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ use hand sanitizers before touching or picking apples ▪ protective masks are required ▪ social distance is maintained ✓ Outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends distanced at least six feet apart. (Greater distance is advised if screaming will occur,)

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PERSONAL PROTECTION MEASURES

With the celebration of every holiday it is important to celebrate with caution and consider the following:

- ✓ Stay home if you are sick and do not host or attend a party during this time
- ✓ Consider those within your household who are at high risk of COVID-19, such as those with certain health conditions, women who are pregnant or older family members.
- ✓ Wear a protective mask to keep your nose and mouth covered during events or gatherings.
- ✓ Avoid close contact by staying at least six feet apart from anyone who is not from your household.
- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
- ✓ Avoid contact with anyone who is sick. If you are sick, or you have been in contact with someone diagnosed or has symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and away from others.
- ✓ Indoor events are higher risk, the following actions will help reduce risk:
 - avoid crowded small areas that are poorly ventilated or fully enclosed indoor spaces where social distancing is difficult
 - consider opening windows and doors to increase ventilation
 - limit the number of attendees to fewer people to help maintain social distancing (staying six feet apart)
 - protective masks should be worn by everyone attending if members outside the household are present.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Clean high-touch items regularly and avoid touching them at events, parties and gatherings.
- ✓ Get tested for COVID-19 if you are sick, if you have been in contact with someone diagnosed or has symptoms of COVID-19, or have regular contact with people who are not part of your household due to work, shopping or social activities.
- ✓ Contact your healthcare provider for a COVID-19 test, call Tarrant County Hotline (817-248-6299) or visit <https://covidtesting.tarrantcounty.com/>

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

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/guidance-on-having-a-safe-halloween-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>



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