



## **Guidance for Celebrating Halloween**

Many traditional Halloween activities involve mingling with neighbors, sharing treats, and visiting carnivals and pumpkin patches. The County requires compliance with State of California Health Orders, which are subject to change in response to the nature of the pandemic. The County also urges residents and businesses to exercise an abundance of caution while engaging in traditional Halloween activities, and encourages residents to opt for safer alternatives. Carelessness during other holidays has led to spikes in sickness and death, as well as increased restrictions.

### **State Health Orders**

State Health Orders currently prohibit indoor and outdoor gatherings involving members of different households. State Health Orders also do not allow for the operation of carnivals, festivals, live entertainment, and amusement parks, including haunted house attractions.

### **Door-to-door Trick-or-Treating and “Trunk-or-Treating”**

These activities usually involve children and adults from various households gathering on porches, sidewalks or behind parked vehicles, accompanied by the sharing of candy and other treats. People who are immune-compromised, who have pre-existing conditions, or are age 65 and older should consider avoiding Halloween activities. Individuals who are feeling sick or believe they might have been exposed to COVID-19 should stay at home (isolate) and should not participate in these activities.

The County urges residents to use extreme caution by ensuring they and their children wear face coverings, remain at least six feet away from other trick-or-treaters, frequently use hand sanitizer, accept only wrapped food items, and examine all treats for tampering. Consider limiting the number of homes you visit and/or staying in close proximity to your home.

Residents handing out candy and treats are urged to wear face coverings, provide only wrapped items, use tongs or wear gloves to pick up treats and candy when distributing, wash their hands frequently, and discourage trick-or-treaters from gathering closely on their property or near their vehicles. Consider opening the bag or container without touching the candy and placing the candy on a table or tray to maintain social distancing so children can pick up their own candy. Ensure that trick-or-treaters only touch the piece of candy they have selected. Individuals who are feeling sick or have possibly been exposed to COVID-19 should stay at home (isolate) and should not hand out candy.

Residents who do not believe they can take these precautions should turn off their lights to signal that they are not participating in trick or treating.

Residents are encouraged to use creativity in finding ways to safely hand out candy to trick-or-treaters, like this candy slide:



To learn how to make this at home, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il6eAKfSSoE>

## Allowed and Recommended

- Online parties/contests (e.g. costume or pumpkin carving)
- Car parades that comply with public health guidance for vehicle-based parades including:
  - Drive-by events or contests where individuals dress up or decorate their vehicles and drive by “judges” that are appropriately physically distanced.
  - Drive-through events where individuals remain in their vehicles and drive through an area with Halloween displays.
- Halloween movie nights at drive-in theaters (must comply with State guidance for movie theaters, <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-family-entertainment--en.pdf>, specifically drive-in movie theaters).
- Halloween themed meals at outdoor restaurants (must comply with State guidance for restaurants providing outdoor dining, <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-outdoor-restaurants--en.pdf>).
- Halloween-themed art installations at an outdoor museum (must comply with State guidance for outdoor museums and galleries, <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-outdoor-museums--en.pdf>).
- Dressing up homes and yards with Halloween-themed decorations.

## **Personal Protection Measures**

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Halloween it is important to keep the following in mind:

- Correctly wear a cloth face covering (over the nose and mouth) to prevent disease spread when outside your home and around others that are not part of your household.
- Avoid confined spaces – Stay away from indoor spaces that don't allow for easy distancing of at least 6 feet between you and others who are not members of your household.
- Avoid close contact – Stay at least 6 feet away from other people who are not members of your household, especially while talking, eating, drinking, and singing.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water.
- Clean frequently touched items regularly. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- If you are sick, or you have been in contact with someone who is sick with COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19 stay home and away from other people.