



ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2020 HALLOWEEN GUIDANCE

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many plans for all of us. Halloween celebrations may look a little different this year so we can all celebrate safely. This guidance is to provide local municipalities with tips to help residents stay safe this year.

Visit the MI Safe Start Map for Allegan County and other Michigan Regions risk levels: mistartmap.info

ACTIONS FOR ALL OF US

- Stay home if you or someone in your household is sick
- Wash hands often, especially:
 - After coughing/sneezing
 - Before eating
 - As soon as you return home
- Wear a face mask that covers **both** the nose and mouth
 - A costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth face mask
 - Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth face mask if wearing both causes difficulty breathing
 - Consider wearing a Halloween themed cloth mask
- Plan for how you and your household will celebrate
- Find activities and other ways to celebrate Halloween this year at halloween2020.org



**HEALTH
Department**





HOMEOWNERS

- Mark 6 foot lines in front of your home and leading to driveway/front door
- Set up a distribution table between yourself and trick-or-treaters
- Hand out candy on a disinfected table to avoid direct contact
- Consider passing out candy in an open space where distancing is possible, instead of the front door
- Consider a neighborhood costume parade. It is an easy way to keep safe space between children

PARENTS AND TRICK-OR-TREATERS

- Share with your children that this year may be different than last. Tell them some of the new ways you plan to celebrate and still have fun
- Talk with your children about safety and social distancing guidelines and expectations. Keep a 6 foot distance from others not in your family group
- Consider trick-or-treating with the people you live with
- Play a part in one way trick-or-treating
 - This is where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go
- Carry a flashlight at night and have your child wear reflective clothing
- Carry around hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol
- Only go to houses with safety measures in place
- Inspect candy

SAFE HALLOWEEN GATHERINGS

- Consider avoiding in-person Halloween gatherings this year
 - Use an online meeting platform to have a virtual party
- If you choose to have a gathering:
 - Only have a few people over to limit the possibility of crowding. Indoor gatherings over 20 people per 1,000 square feet are prohibited by [EO 2020-183](#).
 - Have all food and party favors set out individually to prevent cross contamination
 - Avoid buffet style or shared food and drinks
 - Make sure there are plenty of areas with hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol
 - Stay 6 feet away from others that do not live in your household
 - Wear a fun, protective face mask, instead of a costume mask





REDUCE YOUR RISK: HALLOWEEN EDITION

Consider fun alternatives that pose lower risk of spreading the virus that causes COVID-19

LOW-RISK



(A SOCIALLY DISTANCED)
PUMPKIN CARVING
party

Carve or decorate pumpkins with members of your household or outside at a safe distance with neighbors or friends. Display your art!



Decorate your house, apartment or living space



Have a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house
OR

Have a Halloween scavenger hunt outdoors where children are given Halloween themed things to look for

MEDIUM



Play a part in one way trick-or-treating



Attend a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart



Visit pumpkin patches where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins, wear masks, and people are able to social distance

HIGH



Participate in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door



Go to trunk-or-treats where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots



Go on hayrides with people who are not in your household and social distancing cannot be maintained

Adapted from the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Service](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)