

## COVID 19 TRICK OR TREATING GUIDELINES

Given the uncertainty around social gathering amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's trick-or-treat will be a challenge and may look different from previous Halloweens. Health care officials have advised against trick-or-treating this Halloween. Door to door is not recommended because it can be very difficult to maintain proper social distancing. However, if you and your family do decide to trick-or-treat this Halloween, here are a few guidelines to follow that will help protect our community.

### For the Tricksters

- 1. Wear a mask** – incorporate a mask or face covering into your costume. Please remember that rubber or plastic masks do not offer any protection from the virus, so have a protective cloth mask layered into a costume's decorative mask.
- 2. Practice good hand hygiene** - If you choose to go house to house for trick-or-treating, be prepared to practice good hand hygiene at every location. Bring along hand sanitizer to use before you move from one location to another.
- 3. Maintain social distances** – While it's fun to go trick-or-treating with friends, due to the COVID-19 risk, keep the group limited to close friends and family members who are within your protected “bubble”. When you're walking around with your child, you don't want to go into a big group of people or into crowded areas. Please remember that practicing social distancing is very important to limiting the spread of the virus.
- 4. Avoid “Face to Face” exposure** - Interactions at any given doorway or front porch should be very brief and as limited as possible, which will help reduce the risk of exposure. Stress to your trickster the importance of keeping their mask on and not trading or sharing masks with other tricksters.
- 5. Establish ground rules** – Explain to your trickster the importance of following a few basic ground rules for trick-or-treating this year. Your trickster shouldn't be digging around a candy bowl and touching multiple pieces. Explain to them they should point to the piece they would like to have. While it's hard to ask kids not to run around the streets and sidewalks during this event, you should ask them to stay

as far away from people as they can outside of your household and explain the importance of social distancing even when outside.

**6. Don't share props, toys, costumes, or candy containers** - Keep swords, wands, masks, and other props from being passed around. Don't let tricksters exchange costumes, and ask each of your tricksters to hold onto their own candy containers and not swap or consume candy until you have had a chance to inspect it.

### For the Treaters

**1. Wear a mask** – incorporate a mask or face covering into your costume. Please remember that rubber or plastic masks do not offer any protection from the virus, so have a protective cloth mask layered into a costumes decorative mask.

**2. Practice good hand hygiene** - If you choose to give treats this Halloween be prepared to practice good hand hygiene. A suggestion would be to limit the treat giving to a single person to limit contact with others. Very frequent hand sanitizing or hand washing is advised.

**3. Maintain social distances** – While passing out treats consider alternative ways to do so. This could be through the use of tongs, a candy slide, or other inventive ways to limit the contact with tricksters.

**4. Sit outside behind a table or booth** – If you are not a high risk person, sit outside behind a decorated table or booth to maintain the six foot social distance to distribute treats. This will help protect not only yourself, but other individuals in your household, and the tricksters at the same time.

**5. Put hand sanitizer out** - While tricksters should keep a portable bottle of hand sanitizer with them, treaters can also put out a pump bottle for those who are need of it.

**6. Hand out goodies instead of letting children grab them** - To minimize contamination, hand out the treats yourself so you're the only person with their hand in the dish. If you want to let children pick their prize, let them point to their choice or list their options aloud.