Tips for Halloween
9/28/20

When planning Halloween activities, follow the basics of COVID prevention: limit close contact with people outside of your household, limit touching points, and practice good hand hygiene.

**Trick-or-treating**
Trick-or-treating could increase the spread of COVID. Door-to-door trick-or-treating will likely bring people into close contact, especially if people gather and cluster on doorsteps, apartment hallways, and walkways and are not wearing protective face coverings. **While COVID-19 continues to spread in our community, Public Health is encouraging other options.**

If you are thinking about trick-or-treating, here are some things to consider:

- **Reduce risk in how you hand out treats.** For example:
  - Use tape to mark waiting spots 6 feet apart (2 meters) on the way up to your door.
  - Give out candy from a distance, like:
    - slide the candy down a wrapping paper tube into their trick-or-treat bags
    - Individually wrap goodie bags and line them up outside for families to grab and go.
  - Wear a mask when you answer the door for trick-or-treaters.

- **Wear masks that snugly covers the nose and mouth as part of the Halloween costume.** Avoid plastic masks with holes. Make sure kids wear their masks while trick-or-treating.

- **Make sure everyone stays at least six feet (2 meters) apart from others.** If you can’t keep physical distance, avoid activities like trick-or-treating or going to a crowded pumpkin patch.

- **Wash your hands thoroughly when you get home.** Carry hand sanitizer so that kids can clean their hands while trick-or-treating.

- **Set aside any candy you collected outside your household for 24 hours before allowing children to handle it.**

  Purchase some candy in advance so your kids can eat it that same day.

**Other Halloween activities**
We recommend these safer options. If you do have any social gathering, keep it small and on a shorter time frame (the fewer people and shorter the time, the safer it is).

Activities with lower risks of COVID-19 include:
- Organize an outdoor neighborhood or apartment complex costume parade with social distancing.
- Decorate yards, your apartment complex, or your neighborhood.
- Hold a virtual costume party online.
- Exchange candy with families you know by dropping off candy at their doorstep.
- Hide candy in your home for your kids to find.
- Have a small, outdoor costume party where people from different households stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart and wear masks.
- Have a spooky movie night or Halloween craft party with the family.

**For older youth and adults:**
- Avoid house parties and bars, where the risk is highest for the spread of COVID.
- Keep any gatherings small, outdoors when possible or in well-ventilated spaces.
- Incorporate a mask that covers your nose and mouth snugly into your costume.