



YOLO COUNTY COVID-19 HALLOWEEN GUIDANCE: For Giving Out Treats

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020



The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact residents, communities and the economy. With upcoming holidays and Halloween around the corner, here are some guidelines to help families and children celebrate Halloween while staying safe and healthy.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Halloween is a holiday that many people celebrate and is often associated with gatherings, candy, and dressing up. Since the COVID-19 pandemic is still largely impacting how families and friends gather and interact, how we celebrate the holiday and Halloween is also hindered. Our actions can have a direct impact on promoting or limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our community. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the more people interact and the longer they interact, the higher the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 and many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses.

Though the Yolo County Health Officer strongly discourages gatherings of any size, Halloween can still be celebrated while following local and state health orders to lower the risk associated with COVID-19, especially for those that are opening doors and providing treats.

TIPS AND ADVICE FOR GIVING OUT TREATS

1. Use protective equipment

Wear face coverings any time you open a door or interact with others outside your household. Consider wearing gloves if you are going to use your hands to give treats away.

2. Giving Out Treats

Purchase treats that are pre-packaged by a manufacturer rather than home-made or loose treats, such as brownies or candy corn.

If you don't want to give out treats, you can always turn off your lights so that trick-or-treaters do not bother your home.

Options for giving out treats:

- Consider one-way trick or treating where treats or bags are lined up for trick-or-treaters to grab and go from a driveway, yard or table socially distanced from the front door.

Tip: Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after preparing goodie bags.

- Leave treats in a bowl outside the front door.
- Set up a chair and/or table outside so you can give out treats without opening your door. Wear a face covering and use hand sanitizer as needed.
- Use tongs, a spatula, or other grabbing utensil to give out treats.
- Ask trick or treaters to stand in a line to get their treat.
- Pre-place tape on the ground at least 6 feet away from the front door for trick-or-treaters to wait at.



LOWER RISK ACTIVITIES

The following items are considered lower risk and safer alternatives by the CDC:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt outdoors (physically distanced) or indoors with those you live with
- Taking a walk outside and admiring neighborhood Halloween decorations from a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Hosting a Halloween movie night with people you live with

HIGHER RISK ACTIVITIES

The following items are considered higher risk for contracting COVID-19 as stated by the CDC:

- Participating in traditional door to door trick-or-treating
- Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in a parking lot
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
- Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
- Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
- Traveling to a rural fall festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19

RESOURCES



YOLO COUNTY

www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus

www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus-roadmap

CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

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