



YOLO COUNTY COVID-19 HALLOWEEN GUIDANCE: For Trick-or-Treaters

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. Halloween can also be a reminder of childhood, tradition, and joy and for many families, a connection to others, especially in terms of those who dress up and trick-or-treat.

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 trick or treating.

Please be respectful if neighbors have chosen not to participate in Halloween activities this year.

TRICK-OR-TREATING TIPS AND ADVICE

1. Trick-or-treat with others from your household

Those that live in the same household can trick-or-treat together. It is discouraged to trick-or-treat with others outside your household.

2. Practice healthy habits

Wear a face covering even while outdoors or wearing a costume.

Follow good hygiene habits such as washing hands often, using hand sanitizer often and when available and limiting touching your face. Also, don't share costume props or food.

Don't go out if you are sick or have been in contact with someone who is sick or has COVID-19 symptoms.

Try not to touch doorbells or other high touch surfaces with your bare hands. Consider gloves, tissue, or using your costume to touch these surfaces.

3. Continue to distance

While walking on the street or in the neighborhood, stay at least 6 feet away from other groups, including when crossing paths or the street.

Walking directly up to doors is discouraged as occupants may be trying to distance or not wanting to come into contact with others, particularly if the lights are off. If you walk up to a door for candy, wait your turn so that crowding doesn't happen.

If there is a doorbell, try not to use your finger or hands, especially if you have touched your face or face covering. Try using an elbow, or if able, tissue paper, costume sleeve, cape or other material as a buffer between your finger and the doorbell.

If there is no doorbell, knock with your knuckles and if possible, knock with a material as a buffer between your knuckles and the door.

4. Accept treats that are in their original, pre-packaged wrapper



Pre-packaged treats from the store are ideal. Be cautious when accepting treats and use your best judgment.

If treats are placed in a bowl or on a table, please follow instructions if there are any.

5. Wait till you get home

Though it may be hard to, wait until you get home to inspect or eat treats. Once home, you can inspect your treats to see if there are any you don't want to eat or may want to dispose of. Please use your best judgment.

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 (socially 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>