



TOWN OF RAYNHAM

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Halloween Health & Safety Tips

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses including COVID-19. While trick-or-treating is at the discretion of each household, it is important to keep the health and safety of yourself and others a top priority. The Raynham Health Department would like to remind residents of trick-or-treating health and safety tips and provide safer alternatives.

If you have COVID-19 or believe you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has advised against "traditional" trick-or-treating this year due to COVID-19. The following are tips for safer ways to participate in trick-or-treating:

- 1) If you are sick, do not trick-or-treat or leave candy out for trick-or-treaters.
- 2) When trick-or-treating, stay within your small contact group of people, preferably those only from within your household.
- 3) Leave a bowl or platter of candy out, do not open your door or make contact with trick-or-treaters. If you must make contact, ensure a protective face covering is worn and social distancing is maintained.
- 4) Consider placing candy on a platter instead of a bowl.
- 5) Instead of traditional trick or treating, opt for one-way trick-or-treating, with treats placed outside of the home for trick-or-treaters as a "grab and go" while keeping distance from others.
- 6) Consider leaving hand sanitizer by any treats left out for trick-or-treaters to use.
- 7) When replenishing candy for trick-or-treaters, wash your hands.
- 8) Bring hand sanitizer if you plan on trick-or-treating and use frequently.
- 9) Face coverings are required, costume masks in general do not qualify**
- 10) Avoid Halloween parties and avoid indoor events.

**Do not use costume masks in place of cloth masks

A costume mask is not a suitable replacement for a protective cloth mask. A costume mask should not be used as a replacement to a protective cloth mask unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and does not leave gaps around the face. Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous and potentially make it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.

The CDC has also made recommendations for alternative Halloween activities, broken down by different levels of risk.

Lower risk activities:

- 1) Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- 2) Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- 3) Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- 4) Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- 5) Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- 6) Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- 7) Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

Moderate risk activities:

- 1) Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
- 2) If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- 3) Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart
- 4) Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
- 5) Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart. *If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- 6) Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people can maintain social distancing
- 7) Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least 6 feet apart

Higher risk activities:

Avoid these higher risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

- 1) Attending large indoor celebrations with singing or chanting
- 2) Participating in crowded indoor gatherings or events
- 3) Having a large dinner party with people from different households coming from different geographic locations

As a reminder, residents should adhere to each of the following:

- Wear a face mask or face covering and maintain proper social distancing.
- Practice good hand hygiene, including hand washing and use of alcohol-based sanitizers.
- Refrain from touching your face.
- Stay home if:
 - you feel unwell;
 - you have tested positive for COVID-19; or
 - you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.