

COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines: Halloween

This document provides public health guidance on safety precautions to take this year when celebrating Halloween. Halton residents are strongly encouraged to follow the recommendations listed below to protect themselves and each other from COVID-19. **IMPORTANT: The recommendations below align with provincial guidance provided to public health units on October 7, 2020. This guidance may change depending on the local incidence of COVID-19.**

Trick-or-treating

- Stay home if you are feeling unwell or are self-isolating.
- Travel around your neighbourhood with members of your own household only. Do not travel in large groups.
- Limit the number of houses you visit.
- Maintain a physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) from those outside of your household.
- Wait for others to leave a house before approaching it.
- Wear a non-medical mask or face covering when physical distancing is a challenge. A traditional Halloween mask is not a replacement.
- Carry hand sanitizer and use it often.
- Avoid touching your face, and cover coughs and sneezes with a bent elbow or tissue.
- Be respectful of households that are not handing out treats this year.
- Follow the regular safety measures when going trick-or-treating, such as wearing reflective materials, watching for traffic and using crosswalks.

Distributing treats

- Do not hand out candy if you are feeling unwell or are self-isolating.
- Wash or sanitize hands before touching treats.
- Provide pre-packaged, single serving, individually wrapped treats.
- Limit the handling of treats by using tongs. Avoid providing treats through a self-serve option (for example, leaving an open bowl on your porch).
- Consider creating individual bags of treats for easy pick-up.
- Distribute treats at the end of the driveway to avoid crowding and close contact at your front door.
- Wear a non-medical mask or face covering when physical distancing is a challenge.
- Consider offering non-food treats (for example, toys, pencils, or books) as a healthier option.
- Make an effort to frequently disinfect any high-touch areas, such as hand rails, doors, doorbells or door knobs.

Hosting parties and gatherings

- Host Halloween parties and gatherings virtually.