Halloween During COVID-19

To minimize the spread of COVID-19 and ensure everyone has a safe and healthy Halloween, Austin Public Health is offering risk guidance for Halloween activities.

Low-Risk Activities

• Carving pumpkins with members of your household
• Decorating your living space
• Hosting a virtual Halloween gathering with a costume contest or pumpkin carving show-and-tell
• Having a candy hunt or piñata within your home

Medium-Risk Activities

The following activities should all include masking and social distancing:

• Lining up individual goodies bags at the edge of your yard or driveway for families to grab
• Attending an outdoor costume party
• Going to an outdoor, one-way haunted house
• Visiting a pumpkin patch where hand sanitizer is used before touching pumpkins

High-Risk Activities

• Participating in traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating
• Having trunk-or-treat events
• Attending crowded, indoor costume parties
• Going to an indoor haunted house
• Going on hayrides with non-household members

We recommend avoiding all high-risk activities and being cautious with all medium-risk activities to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Trick-or-Treating

If you still choose to participate in traditional trick-or-treating, please follow these health and safety tips:

• Stay home if you or your child feels sick or is at high risk of complications from COVID-19
• Trick-or-treat only with people in your household
• Wear a face covering and maintain at least 6 ft of distance from non-household members
• Avoid going to up to doors until all other trick-or-treaters have left the home
• Use hand sanitizer in-between houses
• Take only wrapped candy and wash or leave wrapped candy for 24 - 48 hours before eating

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