

Halloween 2020 Covid Safety Guidelines

Halloween is just around the corner. As we are still faced with Covid-19, Halloween will look a bit different this year. The BC Centre for Disease control, on behalf of our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, have developed Halloween guidelines to make this Halloween safer, as well as fun. For the full guidelines, please see: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/social-interactions/halloween>

1. **Skip Halloween parties this year-** Indoor gatherings, big or small, put people at higher risk of getting COVID-19. If you host or attend a small party, keep it within your social group (“Stick to your six”).
 - You should know everyone who attends, no plus ones.
 - Don’t pass around snacks, drinks, smokes, tokes, and vapes
 - Be more outside, than inside. Keep your space well-ventilated with windows open.
 - Avoid using props that can cause coughing, such as smoke machines.
 - Be careful with hand sanitizer and open flames - hand sanitizer is very flammable!
 - Celebrate with your favourite Halloween movie or other traditions that you can do with your household or social group.
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2. **Trick or treating in small groups can be a safe and a fun activity-** Keep to your local neighbourhood this year, and trick or treat in a small social group (“stick to your six”)
 - Avoid trick-or-treating in busy areas or indoors (in places like malls) since there may not be enough space to distance. Indoor spaces may require a non-medical mask or face covering.
 - Leave space between you and other groups to reduce crowding on stairs and sidewalks.
 - Wash your hands before you go out, when you get home, and before eating treats.
 - Keep hand sanitizer with you if eating treats on the go.
 - You don’t need to clean every treat. You should instead wash your hands after handling treats and not touch your face.
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3. **Get creative in making space when handing out treats**
 - Use tongs, a baking sheet or make a candy slide to give more space when handing out candy.
 - Plan to hand out individual treats instead of offering a shared bowl.
 - Only hand out sealed, pre-packaged treats.
 - Wear a non-medical mask when handing out treats
 - Be more outside, than inside- if you can, stand outside your door to hand out treats (then kids don’t need to ring doorbell). If you are unable to stand outside, clean and disinfect doorbells, doorknobs and handrails regularly throughout the evening.

No matter how you celebrate Halloween this year...

1. Turn off your porch light and stay at home if you are sick or self-isolating.
2. Try including a non-medical mask or face covering as part of your costume.
 - Costume masks should not be worn over non-medical masks or face coverings as that may make it difficult to breathe.
3. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer often.