

WINDSOR MATTERS

HALLOWEEN 2020 SPECIAL EDITION

NO-TRICK TIPS FOR CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN

Incidents of COVID-19 are on the rise in our area and because of it, Halloween might look a little different this year. Even so, with the right precautions in place, there are ways to minimize your risk and keep Halloween fun—and safe—for everyone.

One of the safest ways to celebrate is to keep your celebration small and at home. Staying home and avoiding groups of 10 or more is the safest option. Consider having a spooky family movie night with special treats or maybe stage a not-so-haunted candy hide and seek for kids. You can also make Halloween treats, bake cookies, carve or decorate pumpkins, and make Halloween crafts.

If your household isn't participating in this year's holiday, one simple way to let others know is to turn off all of your exterior lights. Some families might also choose to put a sign on their door that says they are not participating.

Tips for Minimizing COVID-19 Risk

Wear a face covering when out in public or around people who are not part of your household. Halloween costume masks are not a substitute for a cloth mask unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps. Costume masks (such as plastic character masks) are not a substitute for an approved COVID-19 face covering. Avoid groups of ten or more and maintain at least 6 feet between you and people from another household and consider staying within your own neighborhood.

Ideas for Dealing with Candy

Are you handing out candy? It's important to practice proper hand washing, physical distancing, and wearing appropriate face coverings. Avoid letting little hands reach into a candy bowl. Consider setting up a treat table near the sidewalk and lay out pre-packaged candy for kids to grab. Another idea is to make pre-packaged treat bags and place them along the driveway. Let children take one bag.

As with all in person activities at this time, there's no way to eliminate all risk. Families are encouraged to celebrate at their comfort level. With a little planning and some precautionary measures, you can still enjoy the holiday.



Keep Streets Safe for Drivers and Pedestrians

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that Halloween is consistently one of the top three days for pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Children in dark costumes are harder to see at night, posing an additional potential road hazard.

Here are some tips from the Windsor Police Department to keep everyone safe this Halloween.

Motorists

- Be especially alert during trick-or-treating hour, which typically run from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Slow down in residential neighborhoods.
- Be extra cautious and allow yourself extra time to react to children who may dart between cars and into the street.
- Look for children crossing the street at and in-between intersections.
- Turn your headlights on, even in daylight, so children can see your vehicle more easily.

Parents

- Make sure that children under 12-years old are supervised by a responsible adult or older sibling.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar areas and along established routes.
- Teach children to stop only at well-lit houses and to never to enter a stranger's home or garage.
- Establish a time for children to return home.
- Remind children to stay on sidewalks, watch for vehicles, and only cross streets at the corner.
- Never cross between parked vehicles or mid-block.



WINDSOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The Purple Pumpkin: A COVID-19 Halloween Trend

Have you seen the purple pumpkin trend? Originally used to draw awareness for the Epilepsy Foundation, the Purple Pumpkin Project has taken on an additional meaning this year.

Placing a purple pumpkin on a doorstep or on your door—whether it is a painted pumpkin or a paper one—can help parents know if your home is actively taking steps to take COVID-19 precautions. It lets parents know that you will be wearing a mask and actively wearing disposable gloves or washing hands or even using hand sanitizer while handing out treats.



BRIGHT IDEAS FOR A SAFER HALLOWEEN

There are several ways to keep families safe this Halloween. One bright idea is to add reflective tape to buckets, bags and costumes and to use a flashlight at night. Here are a few other ways you can enjoy a safer Halloween this year:

- Turn on all exterior houselights if your household is handing out treats.
- Make sure costumes don't obstruct vision.
- Carry a flashlight containing fresh batteries, and place it face down in the treat bucket to free up one hand. Never shine it into the eyes of oncoming drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it's the right size to prevent trips and falls.
- If kids 12 years and older will be out without supervision, ask them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit.
- Check treats for tampering before children eat them. Candy should be thrown away if the wrapper is faded, torn or unwrapped.
- Help trick-or-treaters who might have serious food allergies. Place a teal pumpkin on your doorstep to let them know you have a non-food treat item.

Some parents might even choose a "hands-off" period and isolate their kids' candy for a day or two before letting them indulge. It's still unclear if COVID-19 can reliably survive on some surfaces.

To make this easier, parents might want to consider having a small stash of candy they've purchased ahead of time for their kids to enjoy immediately.