

HALLOWEEN

STAYING SAFE FROM COVID-19

Like everything else in 2020, Halloween will look different because of COVID-19.

This year, find new ways to celebrate that doesn't involve in-person parties or traditional trick-or-treating. With a few considerations, Halloween can still be enjoyable for both parents and kids.

To help you be safe and stay healthy this Halloween and to slow the spread of COVID-19, Door County Public Health recommends following the guidance below that is consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to help you make safe decisions and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Should you go trick or treating?

The short answer is: **Not how you have in the past.** Both the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services \(DHS\)](#) have released recommendations for Halloween this year. The CDC has listed traditional trick or treating as a "high-risk activity" that should be avoided, and the DHS recommends against door-to-door trick or treating.

Widespread community spread of COVID-19 is present in our community. [To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Door County:](#)

- 1. Wear cloth face coverings in public settings (both indoors and outdoors), especially when physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain.** People should wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when in businesses, in someone else's home when you are not part of the same family group, on public transportation, and all other public settings. Exceptions are certain activities such as eating at a restaurant, but during those activities 6 feet of distancing of individuals not from the same household should be followed at all times. If outdoors in an open area with no contact with others, face coverings are optional.
- 2. Children aged 2-4 are highly encouraged to wear a face covering, and children age 5 and older are advised to wear them.** Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents them from wearing a face covering are also exempted. This advisory should not be used as justification to harass or harm another person who is either wearing or not wearing a face covering.
- 3. Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between yourself and other people who are not members of your household unit.**

4. In-person events and gatherings are considered high risk and should be avoided.

The more people an individual interacts with at a gathering, and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the risk of becoming infected and spreading COVID-19. Highest risk are gatherings where it is difficult to remain spaced 6 feet apart, and attendees travel from outside the local area.

5. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

6. Stay home if you are sick, even with mild symptoms. If you have symptoms, get tested

CONSIDER LOW RISK HALLOWEEN ALTERNATIVES

- If handing out candy use small bags or individually packaged candy and place in a tray outside of the door with your light on to reduce exposure
- Host online parties and contests
- Car parades
- Bake Halloween-themed treats as a family
- Watch Halloween-themed movies with your family, household or as a group online.
- Leave Halloween treats outside the door where friends and loved ones live.
- Carve or decorate pumpkins with members of your household.
- Do 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.
- Have a scavenger hunt style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house.
- Organize a costume parade where friends and family drive by your house, staying in their car to see your costumes and vice versa.
- Have your family dress in a theme for a mystery dinner. You could even involve friends or family virtually.
- How could we forget the classic? Gather your family safely around a fire outside to tell ghost stories.