

# COVID-19: Tips for a Safer Halloween

Get vaccinated against COVID-19 to enjoy a safer Halloween. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/covidvaccine](https://nyc.gov/covidvaccine). Here are some other tips for a safe and spooky Halloween!



## No matter how you celebrate, help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Stay home if sick.** Celebrate at home if you or your family members are not feeling well or have recently tested positive for COVID-19. If you are not fully vaccinated and were recently exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should also stay home.

## Practice physical distancing.

Do not attend large gatherings, especially indoors. If you are not fully vaccinated, keep 6 feet of distance from others.

**Wear a face mask.** You can have COVID-19 and not know it. If you are not fully vaccinated, wear a face mask in public places. Face masks are required when using public transportation, including taxis and ride shares.

**Keep your hands clean.** Wash your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands and cover your coughs and sneezes. Make sure your hands and treats are clean before diving in.

## Safer Halloween activities in the time of COVID-19

- **Outdoor trick-or-treating.** See the next page for tips to trick or treat more safely this Halloween 2021.
- **Pumpkin carving.** This is a great activity to do alone or with others.
- **Decorate your home.** Decorate with the whole family or walk around the neighborhood and see who has the scariest decorations.
- **Virtual parties.** Have a video costume contest. See who has the most creative costume.
- **Scavenger hunt.** Create clues and have your kids hunt for sweets at home or in a nearby park during daytime.
- **Watch a scary movie.** Have a “fright fest” at home with your family or housemates.
- **Make your own treats.** Decorate cookies and cakes as goblins, ghosts or bats.



## Tips on dressing up

- **Halloween masks are not face masks.** Masks that are sold as part of Halloween costumes (such as monster and alien masks) have holes for breathing that make them ineffective at stopping COVID-19 transmission. **If you are not fully vaccinated, wear a face mask over any costume mask.** Do **not** wear a face mask under your costume mask, as it may make it hard to breathe.
- **Get creative.** Think about a costume that includes a face mask — be a doctor, nurse, cowboy, ninja or masked bandit! Make your face mask a part of your costume by attaching or drawing a mustache or whiskers.





## Trick-or-treating

Trick-or-treating involves interacting with many people at a short distance. Here is how to make it safer:

- **Go prepared.** Bring and use hand sanitizer. Make sure everyone age 2 and older wears a face mask, and bring extras just in case. 
- **Stay outdoors.** Trick or treat outdoors rather than inside apartment buildings, especially if you are not fully vaccinated.
- **Back up.** Step back 6 feet after knocking on the door or ringing the bell. 
- **Giving treats.** Make sure your hands are clean, and wear a face mask. Do not allow people to put their hands in a bag or bowl that you are holding. If you are not fully vaccinated, consider leaving a bowl outside your door or going outside to hand out treats.
- **Candy check.** Once you get home, inspect candy to make sure it has not been tampered with. Also, remember to brush and floss your teeth after eating sweets. 



## If you meet up with others

- **Consider risks.** If you or a loved one are an older adult or have a health condition that increases your risk of severe COVID-19, consider staying home and enjoying Halloween from afar, especially if you are not fully vaccinated.
- **Avoid crowds.** The more people that gather close together, the higher the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- **Outdoors is safer.** Bundle up and celebrate in a large outdoor space.
- **Bring your own (BYO).** Sharing a beverage or passing food around can spread COVID-19.

## COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing

It is easy to get a COVID-19 vaccination in New York City. To find a vaccination site, visit [nyc.gov/vaccinefinder](https://nyc.gov/vaccinefinder) or call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692).

Testing also remains an important part of reducing the spread of COVID-19. To find a testing site, visit [nyc.gov/covidtest](https://nyc.gov/covidtest) or call 311.

