COVID-19: Tips for a Safer Halloween

Get vaccinated against COVID-19 to enjoy a safer Halloween. For more information, visit 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 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 or call 311.