



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prevention

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City Follows CDC Guides for Halloween Trick or Treating Activities

(PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA - OCTOBER 5, 2020) - Thinking about Halloween activities including Trick or Treating in the midst of a pandemic? The Portsmouth Health Department encourages citizens to review and adhere to CDC guidelines for Halloween to ensure the safety and well-being of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CDC recently released guidelines on Halloween <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>. Here are some tips to keep Trick or Treating safe for your family and neighbors:

Moderate Risk Activities

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
 - If you are preparing goodie bags, [wash your hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after preparing the bags.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than six (6) feet apart
 - A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around the face.
 - Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.

- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
 - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.

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- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least six feet apart
 - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
 - Lower your risk by following CDC's [recommendations on hosting gatherings or cook-outs](#).

The Portsmouth Fire Rescue and Emergency Services fully supports CDC guidelines, along with local pre-cautions set forth by our partners in the Portsmouth Health **Department**. The city fire stations will be closed to the public, due to social **distancing**. Citizens are encouraged to cautiously participate in holiday activities and special events in accordance with CDC recommendations, including frequent hand washing and face coverings; as our nation and Commonwealth continue the global fight against COVID-19.

The Portsmouth Police Department encourages residents to have a happy Halloween and to participate in safe Halloween activities in accordance with CDC guidelines.

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