

County of San Diego

Guidance for Celebrating Halloween during the COVID-19 Pandemic



To minimize the spread of COVID-19 and ensure children have a fun, safe Halloween, the County of San Diego offers guidance for the most common activities to protect you and your loved ones.

Halloween Activities

Not Allowed (in-person gatherings and events are currently not allowed under the County of San Diego Public Health Order)

- In-person gatherings, events, or parties with non-household members are not permitted, even if they are conducted outdoors, since maintaining 6-feet of distance between participants cannot be easily maintained.
- Carnivals, festivals, petting zoos, and live entertainment are not allowed because frequent interaction with high-touch surfaces by children and participants increase the risk of infection to the community.

Not Recommended

- Close contact, door-to-door trick-or-treating or “trunk-or-treating,” and leaving bowls of candy for others to grab is not recommended, because it is difficult to maintain proper social distancing guidelines.
- Haunted Houses are not recommended because they put an increased amount of people in typically tight, poorly ventilated areas that make it difficult to maintain 6-feet of distance from others.

Recommended

- Online parties/contests (e.g., costume or pumpkin carving) and drive-through events and car parades.
- Dressing up homes and yards with Halloween-themed decorations.
- Halloween movie nights with your own household or at drive-in theaters.
- Pumpkin patches where people use hand sanitizer and maintain 6-feet of distance from others.

Safer Alternatives

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween listed below.

- Make fall recipes and crafts as a family for creative dinners and spooky decorations.
- Participate in drive-through events or contests where individuals dress up or decorate their vehicles and receive scores from “judges” that are maintaining appropriate physical distance.
- Visit pick-your-own fruit/vegetable operations that follow [California Department of Food and Agriculture](#) guidelines.
- Participate in one-way trick-or-treating, where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard).
- Consider distributing treats other than candy, which parents can then sanitize before giving to kids: stickers in cellophane packaging, pencils, mini pumpkins, erasers, etc.

Personal Protection Measures

However you celebrate, please continue to follow the [County of San Diego Public Health Order](#), [California Department of Public Health Guidance](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Halloween Guidelines](#), maintain safe distance and wear a face covering to keep children and adults safe. To stay safe during the 2020 Halloween holiday, please remember to:

- Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- Clean frequently touched items regularly.
- Avoid close contact – stay at least 6 feet away (3 or more adult steps) from all other people who are not part of your own household.
- Avoid indoor spaces that don't allow for easy distancing of at least 6 feet between you and others.
- Correctly wear a face covering to prevent disease spread when outside your home and around others that are not part of your household.
- Stay home and away from others, if you are sick, or you have been in contact with someone who is sick with or has symptoms of COVID-19.

For questions, please contact SafeReopeningComplianceTeam@sdcounty.ca.gov.



Updated 9-28-2020