

County of San Diego

Recommendations for Celebrating Halloween During the COVID-19 Pandemic

To help stop the spread of COVID-19 and make sure everyone has a fun, safe Halloween, the County of San Diego offers recommendations for the most common activities to protect you and your loved ones.

Personal Safety Measures

- The best thing to do to get ready for the holidays is to [get vaccinated](#) as soon as possible. This is really important as many ghouls and ghosts will be children under 12 who are not yet able to be vaccinated.
- [California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH) face covering guidance **requires** masks indoor for all unvaccinated persons outside their residence. Regardless of vaccination status, all persons are **required** to wear a mask on public transit, indoors in K-12 schools or childcare, and emergency shelters and cooling centers. CDPH **recommends** that all fully vaccinated persons also wear a mask in indoor public settings.
- A good alternative is to try making facial coverings a part of the costume. However, costume masks are **not** a substitute and should not be worn with another face covering as they can be unsafe and limit breathing.
- [Wash your hands](#) often (especially before eating any candy), bring [hand sanitizer](#) to any place you go, and clean your hands when touching items, people, animals, or surfaces. Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Make sure that any place there is a gathering, [the area is well ventilated](#). Try to keep a distance and steer clear of large groups and crowds.
- If you are thinking of traveling, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) [Travel](#) page to help you decide what is best for you and your family. CDC recommends delaying travel until you are [fully vaccinated](#).
- Visit the CDC's [Holiday Celebrations](#) page for other ways to enjoy the holidays and protect your health.



Trick-or-Treating

Along with other [Halloween safety basics](#), take steps to keep youngsters from gathering too closely by setting up trick-or-treat events outdoors. Consider the following when planning to hand out treats:

- Set up stations with single packaged bags, so kids can grab and go at each stop, making it easier to keep a distance from other children.
- Limit treats to commercially packaged, non-perishable items to prevent the risk of getting sick.
- Try using tape to mark out a physically spaced line leading up to the door or using a wrapping paper tube to slide candy into treat bags.
- Add hand sanitizer stations to help visitors clean their hands.

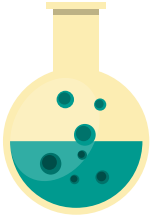
For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, please visit:

coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine

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Costume Parties, Parades, Drive Thru, and Community Events

- Outdoor parades, carnivals, trunk-or-treating, parties, and attractions are safer than indoor public events. Look for programs offered by partner organizations that have safe ways to have fun, local attractions, or other outdoor venues in the area.
- If being a part of any indoor festivities, such as at school or work, make sure everyone wears face masks—regardless of vaccination status. Keep a distance and be mindful about the number of people who enter.
- Pumpkin patches and apple orchards are good alternatives to an indoor event. Remember to use hand sanitizer or wash your hands before and after touching what you pick.

Safer Alternatives

- Online parties/contests (e.g., costume or pumpkin carving), watch spooky movies, or try virtual trick-or-treating.
- Dress up homes and yards with Halloween-themed decorations with close friends or household members.
- Make fall recipes and crafts with close friends or household members for creative dinners and spooky decorations.
- Have a scavenger candy hunt with close friends or household members instead of trick-or-treating.



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