

COVID-19 Trick or Treating Guidelines

The City of Highland Park encourages families to celebrate Halloween safely this year in light of ongoing health concerns due to COVID-19. With the proper precautions, everyone can enjoy a safe and spooky celebration.

Children may trick or treat on Saturday, October 31, 2020 between the hours of 3:00 – 7:00 PM. Children, families, and individuals passing out treats are urged to follow the guidelines below to promote a safe experience for all:

- Do not participate in trick-or-treating if you are feeling unwell, if someone in your house is unwell, if you are awaiting COVID-19 test results, if you have recently returned from travel to a hotspot state, or if you know that you have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Turn on your porch lamp or outdoor lights to show that your home is welcoming trick-or-treaters. Not all families may feel comfortable participating in trick-or-treating this year; teach children not to ring the doorbell if a light is not on.
- Consider using a motion activated noise maker to notify you when trick-or-treaters are at the door, such as a motion activated Halloween decoration, rather than having trick-or-treaters ring the doorbell, which can be a high touch-point.
- Face coverings should be worn by all participants over the age of two, including individuals passing out treats.
- Avoid close contact with others by leaving candy on your porch – or even socially-distanced on your lawn (see below for a list of ideas)! Instead of manning the door, man the windows and wave at kids as they visit.
- If you would prefer to answer the door to greet children individually, pass out candy instead of inviting children to take a treat from a communal bowl. Ask children to tell you their choice of a treat, rather than taking it themselves.
- Individuals should use hand sanitizer regularly throughout the trick or treat hours.
- Do not trick-or-treat in groups with others; trick-or-treat as a household.
- Maintain a safe distance from other trick-or-treating groups, and do not approach a house until the previous group has left.
- Consider distributing treats other than candy, which parents can then sanitize before giving to kids: stickers in cellophane packaging, pencils, mini pumpkins, erasers, etc.
- Please refrain from distributing coins or cash.
- Please do not distribute homemade treats or fresh fruits.

Creative Ways to Distribute Treats

If you would like to avoid trick-or-treaters coming to your door, but would still like to participate, consider passing out treats using the following socially-distanced ideas:

- Host a “trunk or treat”. Instead of inviting trick-or-treaters to come to your door, decorate your car and place candy in the open trunk for children to take.
- Create a grab-bag candy walk on your lawn: place candy inside recyclable paper lunch bags so each child can simply pick up a bag of treats.
- Hang treats from a clothesline at children’s height.
- Mark a safe distance from your door using chalk and ask children to stand behind the line before you open the door to pass out candy.

