

COVID-19 Trick or Treating Guidelines

The Village of Hainesville 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. Not all families will feel comfortable participating in trick-or-treating this year; teach children not to ring the doorbell if a light is not on. Participating in trick-or-treating is a personal choice for each family, and neighbors may choose differently from others based on their own comfort levels. All trick-or-treaters - young and the young at heart! - are encouraged to be respectful of their neighbors' decisions to participate in trick-or-treating or not. Should your family choose to trick-or-treat, please carefully review the guidelines below, and practice the 3Ws as you would for any outdoor activity. Children may trick or treat on Saturday, October 31, 2020 between the hours of 1:00 – 3:00 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.
- 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.