

# PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **HALLOWEEN SAFETY 2020**

SEAL BEACH, CA — The City of Seal Beach asks the community to celebrate Halloween safely and responsibly.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released guidelines on how to make sure you and your families remain safe while enjoying the Halloween season. Traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for transmitting the Coronavirus. Below are some lower risk suggestions that will still provide Halloween fun.

### **LOW RISK ACTIVITIES:**

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

### **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 second 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 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
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least 6 feet apart

**HIGHER RISK ACTIVITIES:**

- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door
- Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
- Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
- Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors

“Creativity is key this Halloween” said Seal Beach Chief of Police Philip L. Gonshak. “It is important that we all do our part and take the necessary precautions to help stop the spread of infection.”



For more information and other holiday safety tips, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>.

For updated information, follow the Seal Beach Police Department on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter @sealbeachpolice.

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