



NEWS RELEASE . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCCHD issues guidance for celebrating Halloween

(Oklahoma City)- Halloween will need to be celebrated somewhat differently this year, according to the Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD). The department recommends individuals participate in activities that are only with members of their household to protect against exposure to the virus.

“We’ve now been through multiple holidays during the COVID pandemic, and after each holiday, there is a verified spike in cases as people are exposed to others outside of their household at parties and other organized events,” said Dr. Patrick McGough, DNP, executive director of OCCHD.

“The virus doesn’t stop spreading for a holiday, and it is important you continue practicing the safety measures we’ve all become accustomed to: wearing a mask; washing hands; and watching your distance by staying at least 6 feet away from others outside your home,” Dr. McGough added.

If individuals decide to participate in activities on Halloween, the following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance must be followed.

Trick-Or-Treating

- Limit group sizes to 10 or less
- Avoid large crowds while trick-or-treating
- Avoid direct contact with trick-or-treaters
- Give out treats outdoors, if possible
- Set up a station with individually bagged treats for kids to take
- Wash hands before handling treats
- Wear a mask
 - A costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth mask.
- Do **NOT** wear a costume mask over a cloth mask. It can make breathing more difficult.
- Masks should **NOT** be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing
- Bring hand sanitizer with you and use it after touching objects or other people.
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Parents: supervise young children using hand sanitizer.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home and before you eat any treats

Parties and/or events

OCCHD advises against large, indoor Halloween parties during the COVID pandemic, however if you plan to organize an event, make it an outdoor event. The gathering should be spaced out enough

to ensure everyone has enough room to social distance, and event attendees need to wear masks. Prohibit activities that will generate screaming in close proximity to others.

OCCHD worked with the Oklahoma City Zoo on COVID-19 prevention measures for the annual Haunt the Zoo event. The guidance provides examples that can be replicated for other events being planned in Oklahoma County. To view the guidance, visit occhd.org.

About Oklahoma City-County Health Department

Established in 1910, Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) is committed to protecting health, promoting wellness, and preventing disease to ensure a healthy future for the Oklahoma County-area community. OCCHD was one of the first public health departments in the nation to receive accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. For more information, please visit www.occhd.org.