



Chisago County Health and Human Services Public Health Division



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Halloween in the Year 2020

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Halloween is an exciting time for all. Children get to dress up in costumes and go trick-or-treating around the neighborhood with friends. Unfortunately, many of these activities can lead to the spread of COVID-19, which is why Halloween might look a bit different this year.

The Harvard Global Health Institute created a [website to help parents assess their risk level for Halloween activities with a color-coded map of county COVID data](#). It shows which counties are “lower-risk” zones for COVID (green and yellow), where parents might feel more comfortable allowing their children to trick-or-treat, and which are higher-risk areas (orange and red), where online parties and very small gatherings are recommended instead. Although, families should think less in terms of green versus red zones and more in terms of staying safe no matter what, especially considering asymptomatic carriers.

The color coded map indicates that Chisago County is in the highest risk category – the “red zone.” This in part is due to our growing number of total cases and the increased daily rate of new cases.

There are several safer, alternative ways to enjoy Halloween. Here are some CDC-recommended, lower-risk activities that kids will love:

- Carve or decorate pumpkins with members of your household.
- Carve or decorate pumpkins at a safe distance outside with neighbors or friends.
- Decorate your house, apartment or living space with fun or spooky decorations.
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt. Give kids lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance.
- Have a virtual Halloween costume contest.
- Host a Halloween movie night with people you live with.
- Try a scavenger-hunt-style candy search with your household members in or around your home rather than going trick or treating at neighbors’ houses.

Most importantly, keep doing what you have been doing: avoiding large gatherings, keeping a distance of six feet from others, wearing cloth face coverings, and washing hands often. Halloween during the COVID-19 pandemic is a chance for you and your children to get creative and create some new traditions for your family!

For the latest information about COVID-19 in Chisago County, visit @ChisagoCountyPublicHealth on Facebook or the [Chisago County COVID-19 Information Page](#).