



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Crawford County
Health Department

For Immediate Release:

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*"Halloween is approaching and we want to let the public know we are following the KDHE guidelines for celebrating. It is important to us that we are able to keep our community open and safe, and to do that we must make smart choices. Masks and hand sanitizer are recommended. It is important to remember that groups of people must stay socially distanced. **For the safety of our community, if you are sick please do not break the rules and go out, as it may lead to devastating effects on our community.**" - Dr. Timothy Stebbins*

Since some of the traditional ways in which this holiday is celebrated does not allow you to minimize contact with non-household members, it is important to plan early and identify safer alternatives. The Crawford County Health Department would like to share information on how to take part in this holiday in a manner that reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Personal Protection Measures (FOR ALL CIRCUMSTANCES):

- Wear a mask – make sure it covers your **nose and mouth** (should not be worn by kids under 2, anyone with trouble breathing, or anyone who cannot remove their mask without assistance).
- Watch your distance (keep six feet between you and someone from outside your household).
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched items/surfaces.
- Stay home if you are ill, or if you are awaiting COVID-19 test results.

Recommendations for Trick-or-Treating:

- Examine treats for choking hazards or tampering before eating them.
- Only accept/distribute commercially produced, non-perishable items.

- Don't use "grab bowls," where trick or treaters reach into a communal bowl to retrieve candy.
- Consider spacing items 6 feet apart on your porch, in your yard or on a table in your driveway with a sign advising trick or treaters to "Take One." Watch from a safe distance and replenish items as needed. Or, make individual goodie bags for trick or treaters to pick up as they walk by. If your home has a fence, consider hanging individual goodie bags on the fence for trick or treaters to take as they walk by.

Recommendations Trunk or Treat Events:

- Maintain at least 6-feet of distance between yourself and other attendees as you walk around.
- Wait for others to depart a car/trunk before approaching. Do not congregate at a car/trunk with other attendees unless they are members of your household.
- Participating cars should be parked at least 6-feet apart.
- Make individual goodie bags and place them in your trunk so they are not touching.

Recommendations for Halloween Parties:

- Host activities with only people from your local area as much as possible.
- Large, outdoor spaces that allow for physical distancing between attendees is preferred. If an event must be hosted indoors, make sure the space is well-ventilated.
- Create individual seating areas of various sizes spaced 6-feet apart to be utilized by individual households. Encourage guests to sit only with those who are members of their household, especially when eating and drinking.
- Avoid activities that require guests to be in close contact or to share items like games or food.
- Encourage guests to bring their own food and drinks.
- Limit people going in and out of areas where food is being prepared, such as kitchens or grills.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Crawford County Health Department at 620-231-5411.

For a list of guidelines from KDHE, visit:

<https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=34>

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