



Ripley County Health Department  
102 West 1<sup>st</sup> North Street/P.O. Box 745 Versailles, IN 47042  
Phone: 812/689-5751 Fax: 812/689-3909  
<http://www.ripleyhealth.com>

## **Guidance for Celebrating Halloween Activities**

***NOTE: This guidance is subject to change based on updated guidance from the State of Indiana or CDC.***

As fall approaches families start to plan for the upcoming holiday season beginning with Halloween. 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 Ripley 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.

### **Not Recommended**

- Door to door trick or treating is not recommended because it can be very difficult to maintain proper social distancing on porches and at front doors, and to ensure that everyone answering or coming to the door is appropriately masked to prevent disease spread, and because sharing food is risky.
- “Trunk or treating” where children go from car to car instead of door to door to receive treats is also not recommended, particularly when part of Halloween events, since it is difficult to avoid crowding and sharing food.

### **Recommended**

- Outdoor parade where individuals are allowed to “show off” costumes in conjunction with a community hosted distribution of prepackaged treat bags that are allowed to sit for a few days prior to distribution. **Distributor’s must be masked & gloved and hand bags to visitor’s**
- Online parties/contests (e.g. costume or pumpkin carving)
- Car parades including:
  - Drive by events or contests where individuals dress up or decorate their vehicles and drive by “judges” that are appropriately physically distanced.
  - Drive through events where individuals remain in their vehicles and drive through an area with Halloween displays.
  - Drive in events where individuals can receive a treat bag (limited to commercially packaged non-perishable treats) or take away item from an organizer while the participants remain in their vehicle.
- Halloween movie nights at drive in/indoor theaters (must comply with the current Indiana Governor’s Executive order at the time of the event for drive in & movie theater guidance).
- Dressing up homes and yards with Halloween themed decorations.

David J. Welsh, MD  
(812) 212-1205  
[djwelsh\\_1980@yahoo.com](mailto:djwelsh_1980@yahoo.com)

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