



Edward D. Hill
Director

Milton Teske, M.D.
Health Officer

To promote and protect the health and well-being of Kings County residents through education, prevention, and intervention.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: October 9, 2020

Contact: Kings County Department of Public Health, 559-852-4991
EMAIL: KCDPH.PIO@co.kings.ca.us

COVID-19 Halloween Guidance

Hanford, CA – In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Kings County Department of Public Health has issued the following Halloween Guidance in an effort to keep our community members as safe as possible while still enjoying the holiday.

Permitted and Recommended

- Online parties/contests (e.g. costume or pumpkin carving)
- Car parades that comply with public health guidance for vehicle-based parades including:
 - a. Drive-by events or contests where individuals dress up or decorate their vehicles and drive by “judges” that are appropriately physically distanced.
 - b. Drive through events where individuals remain in their vehicles and drive through an area with Halloween displays.
 - c. 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. Face coverings should be in use at all times.
- Halloween themed meals at outdoor restaurants (must comply with the current restaurant COVID-19 modifications).
- Dressing up homes and yards with Halloween themed decorations.

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Halloween it is important to keep the following safety measures in mind to help protect your family, friends, and neighbors:

1. Correctly wear a face covering to prevent disease spread when outside your home and around others that are not part of your household.
2. Avoid confined spaces - Actively stay away from indoor spaces that don't allow for easy physical distancing of at least 6 feet
3. Avoid close contact – Stay at least 6 feet away (3 or more adult steps) from anyone who is not part of your own household, especially while talking, eating, drinking, and singing.
4. Wash or sanitize your hands often.
5. Clean frequently touched items regularly.

6. If you are sick, or you have been in contact with someone who is sick with COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19 stay home, and away from others.

Not Recommended & Safer Alternatives

- Traditional door to door trick-or-treating is not recommended because it can be very difficult to maintain physical distance on porches and at front doors, ensure mask use, and because sharing food is risky.

Safer Alternative: Anyone who would like to distribute treats should leave individually wrapped candy or treats on a table, on their front walkways, sidewalks, or any outdoor space that allows for at least 6 feet of physical distance from the door. The individually wrapped candy should be spread out so each piece is not touching another. Anyone distributing candy or treats should wear a face covering and wash their hands properly for at least 20 seconds before placing the candy on the table and when replenishing.

- “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.

Safer Alternative: Choose a large parking lot or other outdoor setting with adherence to physical distancing, use of face coverings, and limits on attendance. Tables can be pre-set up with participants allowed to parade through the site without stopping to gather, and while maintaining at least 6-foot physical distance from members of another household. Staffing should be limited and no crowds should be allowed to form. Hand sanitizer should be made readily available for everyone walking through the area.

Not Permitted (gatherings are not currently allowed under State Health Officer Order)

- Halloween gatherings, events or parties with non-household members are not permitted even if they are conducted outdoors.
- Carnivals, festivals, live entertainment, and haunted house attractions are not allowed.

As transmission rates and testing positivity begin to decline in Kings County, it remains critically important to continue efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 – test regularly, wear a face covering in public, avoid gatherings with people outside your household, stay home if you are sick, and practice frequent hand hygiene. These protective measures can help drive down COVID-19 transmission and move Kings County toward a safe and sustained reopening of schools, businesses, and the community at large.

Visit www.kingscovidinfo.com for current information, guidance, and to find a testing site near you.