Halloween Guidance

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses, including COVID-19. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween while reducing the risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in any in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Gatherings and Halloween parties create high risk for spread of COVID-19. Getting our children back to school is a high priority, and to do that, we must slow the spread of the virus and decrease exposure outside the home. Celebrating Halloween safely will help accomplish this in Tulare County.

Avoid these high-risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Halloween gatherings or parties with non-household members are high-risk for COVID-19 transmission
- Carnivals, festivals, and haunted house attractions are high-risk for spread of COVID-19
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
- Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
- Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgment and increase risky behaviors
- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door because it is difficult to maintain proper social distancing on porches and at front doors
- Trunk-or-treat events where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots
- Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household

Celebrate SAFELY with these lower-risk activities:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt, where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house
- No-contact online or virtual pumpkin carving/costume contests
- Car parades that comply with public health guidance for vehicle-based 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 vehicles