

# Halloween 2020

## Evaluating Risk during COVID-19

Is it safe to trick or treat? How about taking the kids on a hayride, or to the pumpkin patch? Thinking about doing these and other beloved traditions in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic can make this Halloween season the trickiest – and possibly scariest – of them all.

Like decisions on returning to school or sports, experts at Akron Children’s recommend that you consider fall season and Halloween activities on a risk scale, taking into account crowds, ability to keep a safe 6 feet distance from others, compliance with mask guidelines, personal and family health history, and current virus activity levels in your community.



### LOW RISK

Reading Halloween stories with your children.

Watching classic shows like “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown” as a family.

Carving jack-o-lanterns as a family.

Decorating your house inside and out.

Watching scary movies together as a family.

Letting kids have fun dressing up in costumes of their choice.

Planning a drive-by costume parade or contest.

Planning a scavenger hunt for candy – with immediate family – instead of traditional trick or treating.

Visiting local parks to enjoy fall color. Bring a mask in case trails are crowded.

### MODERATE RISK

A family outing to the pumpkin patch. Wear masks, carry hand sanitizer and opt for weekdays or weeknights to avoid the busiest times.

Taking a hayride. This can be safe if you are riding with immediate family rather than strangers and everyone is wearing a mask.

Picking your own apples, and then make caramel apples, apple pie or other favorite fall recipes. Avoid wagon rides with strangers at the orchard and pack hand sanitizer.

Visiting a corn maze. Look for farms that offer timed entry and/limit visitors. Wear masks.

**Note: Costume masks do not substitute for cloth or hospital-style masks that cover the nose and mouth.**

### HIGH RISK

Trick or treating in the usual door-to-door manner. Modifications, such as putting individually-wrapped candy spread out on a table on the front porch or lawn, and wearing masks (in addition to costumes), can lessen risk.

Hosting or attending private Halloween parties, especially those that are indoors and crowded.

Visiting haunted houses. Crowds, dark narrow paths and screaming patrons are an especially risky situation.

Games, activities and meals that can easily spread infection, like bobbing for apples, pot luck dinners, and sharing communal boxes of doughnuts with friends, classmates or co-workers.