



NEWS RELEASE

York County Public Affairs

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Stay Safe and Healthy this Halloween

York County's Recommended Trick-Or-Treat Hours and Ages Announced

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In York County, those who choose to trick-or-treat are asked to do so from 6-8 p.m. on Halloween, Sunday, October 31. Recommended ages are 12 and under.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that all adults and children aged 12 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine, but many trick-or-treaters aren't eligible to get vaccinated yet. The following list of "safe vs. scary" Halloween activities are provided to help families stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SAFE

- Incorporate a cloth or surgical mask into your costume
- If you go trick-or-treating, do so in small groups outdoors, or enjoy other outdoor activities
- Wash your hands before you eat any candy
- Track local virus transmission rates and take extra precautions where rates are high
- Get the COVID-19 vaccine (age 12+) and your flu shot

SCARY

- Avoid indoor parties, gatherings and crowded doorsteps
- Please don't invite trick-or-treaters inside your home
- Avoid using a costume mask as a substitute for a surgical/cloth mask
- Please do not trick-or-treat if you feel sick

In addition, York County Fire Chief Stephen P. Kopczynski and York-Poquoson Sheriff J.D. "Danny" Diggs offer these additional safety measures for individuals participating in trick-or-treat:

- Carry hand sanitizer with you and use often
- Consider not allowing children to take candy directly from neighbors and stay six feet away from others not in your family group.

- Residents are asked to turn on porch lights to identify homes that wish to receive trick-or-treaters. Please avoid houses where porch lights are off.
- Remind children to be careful, watch for traffic, and to use flashlights.
- Make sure costumes and shoes fit properly to avoid tripping hazards.
- Purchase Halloween costumes (including wigs, capes and props) that feature a “flame-resistant” or “flame-retardant” label.
- Consider wearing bright and/or light-colored costumes, which are easier to see at night.
- Carry a flashlight or light-stick, and attach “glow-in-the-dark” items or reflective tape to the front and back of children’s costumes. Make sure your trick-or-treater can see and be seen.
- Have an adult accompany younger children.

For more on Halloween Safety, call Fire & Life Safety at (757) 890-3600 or the Sheriff’s Office at (757) 890-3630.