

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Celebrating Halloween

## Recent Updates:

10/20/20: Updated to include information about allowable small gatherings and guidance for Dia de los Muertos

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 Long Beach Health and Human Services Department would like to share information on how to take part in this holiday in a manner that reduces your risk of developing COVID-19. Since some of the traditional ways in which this holiday is celebrated are not permitted this year, consider some safer alternatives that are listed below:

## Halloween Activities:

**Not Permitted** (gatherings and events are not currently allowed under the Health Officer Order)

- Carnivals, festivals, live entertainment, and haunted house attractions are not allowed.

## 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, 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.

## Permitted:

- Online parties/contests (e.g., costume or pumpkin carving)
- Car parades that comply with the [Long Beach Health Officer Order](#) 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 items from an organizer while the participants remain in their vehicle.
- Halloween movie nights at drive in theaters (must comply with the [Long Beach Health Officer Order](#) regarding drive in movie theater guidance).
- Halloween themed meals at outdoor restaurants (must comply with the [restaurant protocol](#)).
- Halloween themed art installations at an outdoor museum (must comply with the public health [museum](#)

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[guidance](#)).

- Dressing up homes and yards with Halloween themed decorations.
- Buy and carve a pumpkin (pumpkin patches must comply with the public health [Retail In-Person Shopping protocols](#) and may not have carnival activities such as face painting, petting zoos, or bounce houses.)

## **Dia de los Muertos Activities:**

### **Permitted and Recommended**

- Consider placing and creating your altar in a front window or outside so others can view from a safe social distance.
- Create a virtual space to honor lost loved ones. Share with family and friends via email or social media.
- If you visit the cemetery, only visit with those you live with, wear masks and maintain appropriate social distancing. Limit time spent to minimum necessary.

The fewer people you and your household have in-person contact with, the lower your risk of getting COVID- 19. You and your household are allowed to gather with one or two other households as long as the gathering is outside, lasts no more than 2 hours, and everyone wears face coverings and stays at least six feet from non-household members. If you do choose to take this risk, it is safer to mix with the same 1-2 household(s) repeatedly rather than with different groups. For additional details on private gatherings see the posted [Safer at Home Health Order for the Control of COVID-19](#).

### **Personal Protection Measures:**

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Halloween, it is important to keep the following in mind:

1. Wear a cloth face covering when outside your home and when 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 distancing of at least 6 feet between you and others.
3. Avoid close contact – Stay at least 6 feet away from all other people who are 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 if 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.

### **Know where to get reliable information:**

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Beware of scams, false news and hoaxes surrounding the novel coronavirus. Accurate information, including announcements of new cases in Long Beach, will always be distributed by Public Health through press releases, social media and our website. The website has more information on COVID-19 including FAQs, infographics and a guide to coping with stress, as well as tips on handwashing.

- Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
  - <http://longbeach.gov/covid19>
  - Social media: @LBHealthDept

Other reliable sources of information about novel coronavirus are:

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH, County)
  - <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
  - Social media: @lapublichealth
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH, State)
  - <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, National)
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone, call the Long Beach COVID-19 Information Line at (562) 570-4636.