



EAST HAMPTON VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Michael J. Tracey, Chief of Police



October 2020

Dear Parents and Students:

The Village of East Hampton wanted to take this moment to reach out to local parents and students regarding the upcoming Halloween holiday.

As you may know, we have been fortunate over the years to be able to host a safe location for our families and kids to come to the Village and enjoy trick-or-treating on our streets. With assistance from our Village Police Department, these areas have been closed down to vehicular traffic which enhances the protection for the public.

We know that many families are readying for Halloween and other celebrations, and therefore it is important to ensure that the health and safety of our community remains the foremost goal during COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), many Halloween activities are considered high-risk for spreading the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, the Village will NOT be closing off roads as in years past; we must discourage the gathering of such large groups of people in order to prevent the spread. We do encourage families and children to take part in low risk activities to celebrate the holiday. You will find list of activities, separated by risk category, enclosed with this letter.

Please understand this was a difficult decision to make however; ensuring the health of the parents and children of our communities is critical.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Tracey
Chief of Police



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FROM THE CDC – Halloween

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>

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

LOWER RISK ACTIVITIES:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- 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

MODERATE RISK ACTIVITIES:

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
 - If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
 - A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around the face.
 - Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
 - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing

- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least 6 feet apart
 - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
 - Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on hosting gatherings or cook-outs.

HIGHER RISK ACTIVITIES:

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

- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door
- Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
- Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
- Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
- Traveling to a rural fall festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19