



Preserving, protecting, and promoting public health in our community

For Immediate Release

October 19, 2020

Subject: Safer Halloween

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Traditional Halloween activities are fun, but some can increase the risk of getting or spreading COVID-19 or seasonal flu. The simple truth is, that during a pandemic, the safest thing to do is to celebrate at home. If families decide to venture out however, the Webster County Health Unit encourages residents to plan alternate ways to participate in Halloween this year.

Make trick-or-treating safer by avoiding direct contact with trick-or-treaters, give out treats outdoors if possible, set up a station with individually bagged treats for kids to take, wash your hands before handling treats / use disposable gloves, socially distance as much as possible, and wear a mask.

Cloth masks can be designed to become a part of a child's costume. A costume mask however, is not a substitute for a cloth mask. It's important to never wear a costume mask over a cloth mask, as it can make breathing more difficult. Masks should not be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing.

If you are taking your children out trick-or-treating, or hosting trick-or-treaters, be sure to have hand sanitizer with you and use it after touching objects or other people. Hand sanitizer should contain at least 60% alcohol, and parents should always supervise young children using hand sanitizer.

The Health Unit encourages getting creative this year and considering options like going on an outdoor themed scavenger hunt, visiting a pumpkin patch, take a socially distancing walk through a corn maze, or have a special Halloween just for family members living in your home.

However you celebrate this year, please remember to wear a cloth mask, stay at least six feet away from others, and wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer. More information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>.

About the Webster County Health Unit

Established in 1957 by a vote of the people of Webster County, the Webster County Health Unit continues its commitment to preserve, protect, and promote public health in the communities that it serves. More information on the services provided by the Unit can be found at www.webstercohealth.com.

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