



NORTHEAST HEALTH DISTRICT

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
October 26, 2020

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Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 During Fall Festivities

Athens, GA – With autumn underway, the Northeast Health District is providing guidance for reducing the risk of COVID-19 during fall festivities. Some lower risk activities include carving or decorating pumpkins outside at a safe distance, hosting virtual costume contests, decorating your home and yard, virtual movie nights, and drive-through or drive-by events. Outdoor events that allow you to keep distance between yourself and people that you do not live with such as visiting an orchard or corn maze or attending a scavenger hunt are also lower risk.

Some tips for making trick-or-treating safer include:

- Avoid direct contact with trick-or-treaters.
- Give treats outdoors.
- Set up a station with individually bagged treats for kids to take.
- Wash hands before handling treats.
- A regular costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth mask, so think of creative ways to make your cloth mask part of your costume instead.
- Do not wear a costume mask over a cloth mask. It can make breathing more difficult.
- Masks should not be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you get home and before you eat any treats.

If you have recently been diagnosed with COVID-19 or have recently been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not host or participate in any in-person activities until after the time period for your isolation or quarantine ends. If you are not sure about how long you should be staying away from others after a COVID-19 infection or exposure, you should call your healthcare provider. You may also call the Northeast Health Department's testing hotline at 706-340-0996.

For more information about preventing the spread of COVID-19 during holiday gatherings, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>.

For accurate and reliable information on COVID-19, visit dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

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