



PETERSBURG BOROUGH PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | HALLOWEEN GUIDANCE

Date: October 8, 2020
From: Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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Petersburg's COVID-19 situation is currently a low risk within the community. Citizens and businesses have done a good job of respecting State and Federal guidance on social distancing, face coverings and hygiene in order to keep our community safe. Halloween is a very popular event across our nation and certainly in Petersburg. The EOC is providing the following recommended guidelines in order to celebrate the holiday safely and with due consideration of the risks that exist during the pandemic. The EOC requests that the community respect the efforts and mitigation requirements of any organizers of Halloween events as they seek to follow these guidelines and provide safe activities for Petersburg's celebration.

General Recommendations:

- Holiday events are encouraged to be held outdoors and among members of your household and other close contacts to your family as much as possible.
- Look for opportunities to provide virtual activities and advertise them widely to garner greater participation.
- When at all possible, design costumes with integrated facial coverings.
- If outdoor parties/events are held, maintain social distancing and avoid games that require handling of the same game piece or ball by many participants. Regular cleaning and sanitizing of game pieces is highly recommended.
- Offer hand sanitizer or hand washing for party/event participants.
- Please don't participate if you've recently been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Call the Covid Hotline at 772-5788 if symptoms are present before or after the holiday.
- Indoor Halloween parties are not recommended for any ages.
- Costume contests are recommended to be held virtually or to be socially distanced.

- Parades of costumed children should be social distanced with 6' spacing between participants.
- Family pumpkin carving, as well as community or household decorating is encouraged.

Trick or Treating

- Recommended for the community trick or treating to be 6-8pm on the evening of October 31.
- Trick or Treaters should participate with their own household members only.
- Costumes should incorporate facial coverings where possible.
- Social distancing should be observed between all groups or individuals from different households.
- In instances that social distancing cannot be met between groups, facial coverings should be used.
- Treats should not be shared between trick or treaters.
- Homes that wish to participate with handing out treats should keep their porch lights on. Any home that is dark has chosen not to participate.
- Homeowners should stage treats so that no communal treat bowls are needed. Spreading out treats on porches, railings, stairs or tables so that trick or treaters can take a singular treat and move on will lower the risk for everyone.
- Consider putting treats in separate baggies.
- Trick or treaters should only take one treat per household visited.

The position of the EOC is that Halloween should be enjoyed responsibly, and in thoughtful consideration of the pandemic. The current low case count in Petersburg provides an opportunity for activities to occur but does not eliminate the risk of spreading of the virus to multiple people in a short amount of time. All possible precautions should be observed to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 exposure as much as possible. If an outbreak occurs prior to the holiday, recommendations from the EOC may be modified to further reduce the risk to the community.

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