



**Kathleen Cuddy, MPH  
Public Health Director  
Cayuga County Health Department  
8 Dill St.  
Auburn, NY 13021**



**For Immediate Release: Thursday, October 22, 2020**

## **Cayuga County COVID-19 Halloween Guidance**

Halloween celebrations and activities this year, can be filled with fun, but must be done in a safe way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Given the recent increase in cases and community spread of the virus the Cayuga County Health Department is making some recommendations to your family and our community safe and healthy.

### Trick or Treating Dos –

- Trick or treat with household members only, avoid trick or treating in large groups.
- Stay socially-distanced from others who are not living in your household.
- If giving out treats, avoid direct contact with trick-or-treaters.
  - Give treats outdoors.
  - Provide individually wrapped goodie bags for trick-or-treaters to grab and go.
- Everyone must be wearing a face covering or cloth mask. Most Halloween masks will not provide adequate protection.
- Wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer before, during and after trick-or-treating.

### Trick or Treating Don'ts –

- Do not trick or treat or hand out candy if you are sick or live with someone who is sick. Staying home when sick is one way to protect the health of others!
- Do not trick or treat in large groups.
- Do not trick or treat in crowded streets and neighborhoods where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Do not pick out candy from a bowl or directly from someone's hands.
- Do not wear a Halloween masks over a cloth mask, it may make it difficult to breathe. Skip the costume mask and wear a face covering.

Halloween parties and gatherings of any kind are strongly discouraged given our current situation and rise in cases. Many of our most recent cases can be linked to social gatherings. Remember in order for schools and businesses to remain open, we must all do our part to reduce the risk of exposures and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

If you are having a gathering, keep it small. As we have stated in previous press releases, in order to limit the spread of COVID -19, gatherings of 50 or more people are prohibited by law in public and private venues, except where specifically identified by New York State such as a restaurant or house of worship, which have their own regulations.



**Kathleen Cuddy, MPH  
Public Health Director  
Cayuga County Health Department  
8 Dill St.  
Auburn, NY 13021**



As a reminder, anyone who has been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person and is under a mandatory quarantine order from the Health Department is not allowed to trick or treat or pass out candy. Anyone who is a confirmed positive COVID-19 case is not allowed to trick or treat or pass out candy.

For more information on how to celebrate safely visit: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/seasonal-celebrations>

---

---