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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Remember COVID-19 Safety Measures When Participating in Halloween Activities**

Halloween traditions may look a bit different amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It is strongly recommended that everyone participate in alternative Halloween activities this year, instead of attending large gatherings or doing traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating.

There are still plenty of ways families can have fun while avoiding exposure or spreading the virus:

#### ***Safe Trick-or-Treating***

- Encourage no or low touch trick-or-treating.
- Line up individually wrapped goodie bags 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.
- Place individual pieces of candy spaced out on a table for families/children to take themselves
- Gently toss candy to trick or treaters from 6 feet away.
- Use a “candy chute” or tube to pass along candy from the porch to trick or treaters standing 6 feet away.
- Try “reverse” trick or treat where children dress in their costumes and stay at their house or front yard house and neighbors walk or drive by to drop off candy.

#### ***Safe Halloween Gatherings***

- Follow safe distance rules, even when outdoors.
- Gatherings held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart are a much safer alternative to crowded gatherings held indoors.
- Consistent with Executive Order 163 – abide by mass gathering limits (no more than 25 individuals indoors and 50 outdoors).

***“To Protect and Promote Health through Prevention and Control of Disease and Injury.”***  
**<http://www.moorecountync.gov/health/>**

**Environmental Health  
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Telephone: 910-947-3271  
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### ***Mask/Face Covering Safety***

- Wear face coverings when you are or may be within six feet of another person, especially if coming to the door or standing on a porch where social distancing is difficult to maintain.
- Remember, a costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth face covering unless it has multiple layers of breathable fabric and covers the mouth and nose snugly.
- 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. Avoid painting face coverings, as paints may contain toxins.

### ***Safe Alternative Halloween Activities***

- Have 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 (children should stay within their household groups).
- Have a virtual Halloween costume contest.
- Have a Halloween movie night with people you live with.
- Have a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house.
- Have a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart.

“There are safe ways to celebrate Halloween and minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission,” says Health Director Robert Wittmann. “Most importantly, we should all keep doing what we have been doing by avoiding large gatherings, keeping a distance of six feet from others, wearing cloth face coverings, and washing our hands often.”

For more information regarding COVID-19 and Halloween, visit:

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

Please consult the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Fall- Related Events Guidance for outdoor activities at farms, pumpkin patches, haunted houses/trails, and agritourism events by visiting:

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Fall-Events.pdf>

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