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Door-to-Door Trick-Or-Treating Prohibited in Lowell

LOWELL - Following consultation with Superintendent of Police Kelly Richardson and Director of Health and Human Service Joanne Belanger, and after extensive monitoring of public health guidance and COVID-19 transmission trends, City Manager Eileen Donoghue has announced that door-to-door trick-or-treating will be prohibited in Lowell this year.

Traditional trick-or-treating is considered a “higher risk activity” that should be avoided to prevent the spread of COVID-19 under [recently issued guidance](#) from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Lowell is currently classified as “red” under the state’s COVID-19 risk designation system and has experienced a significant increase in new cases of COVID-19 among residents over recent weeks. Given these factors, City officials determined that permitting trick-or-treating would pose a substantial public health risk to the community.

To date, there have been 3,712 cases of COVID-19 among Lowell residents, and a total of 249 new cases reported in the past 14 days. According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s weekly dashboard released on October 14, Lowell’s average daily incidence rate per 100,000 residents is 16.4, resulting in the City being classified as “red” for the third consecutive week.

Lowell residents are urged to consider public health guidance and to take precautions intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when making alternative plans to celebrate Halloween. Indoor gatherings including costume parties or haunted houses where people may be crowded together are considered high risk activities by the CDC, and should be avoided.

Recommended Halloween activities that are considered “lower risk” by the CDC include:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space

- Doing 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
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

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