



**Greene County Public Health**  
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# Press Release

For Immediate Release  
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## GCPH Offers Tips to Safe Trick or Treating During COVID-19

**XENIA, OH** – Costumes, community, fresh air – there are lots of reasons to love trick-or-treating at Halloween.

But amid the spread of the Delta variant, and kids under 12 not yet eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, it's complicated. Outdoor activities are much safer than indoors, but traditional trick-or-treating still includes large groups of children, and the potential for crowded moments.

CDC Director, Rochelle Walensky was asked if kids should go Trick or Treating this year during an interview on Face The Nation in September. Her response was "If you're able to be outdoors, absolutely. I wouldn't necessarily go to a crowded Halloween party, but I think that we should be able to let our kids go trick-or-treating in small groups". If your family *does* decide to trick-or-treat this year, you'll have to do things just a little differently to keep everyone safe, especially our unvaccinated kids.

Officials at Greene County Public Health offer the following recommendations on staying safe. *Please remember that these are simple recommendations only.*

1. **Stay outdoors.** Neighbors should wear masks and stay outside their front door or at the end of their driveway or yard. Instead of having kids reach into a communal candy bowl, consider handing out individual bags to each child and set up a one-way route to avoid crowding.
2. **Wear a mask (and not just the costume kind).** Even outdoors, this is recommended for unvaccinated kids. Keep in mind that most costume masks alone aren't effective at stopping the spread of germs. So make sure your unvaccinated child wears at least a two-ply face mask, and check that they can breathe comfortably if they are also going to use a costume mask. A better way to go: a Halloween-themed two-ply face mask!
3. **Limit the group size.** Keep your child's trick-or-treating group to just siblings or a close friend or two.
4. **Limit the houses you visit.** To limit unnecessary exposure to others, just go to a few homes on your street, or to visit just a few friends you know well.
5. **Social distance.** Leave lots of space between any other trick-or-treaters.
6. **Take precautions while prepping goody bags.** If you are the one preparing goody bags, wash your hands to soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after prepping bags.

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7. **Practice good hand hygiene.** Remember to have kids use hand sanitizer in between homes to further reduce risk.
8. Stay home **if you might be sick.** If any of your family members are feeling sick or think you may have been exposed to the coronavirus, please stay home!

For more information about Greene County Public Health, visit the website at [www.gcph.info](http://www.gcph.info) or call 937-374-5600. For more COVID-19 information or questions, click on the red COVID-19 bar at the top of the GCPH website or visit <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>.

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