

Halloween Safety Guidelines

COVID-19 is still a concern and we must ensure we celebrate in a thoughtful and safe way. It is important for all of us to think about our cumulative interactions... It is important to recognize we all have a role to play in keeping our curve flat. – Ministry of Health, British Columbia

Going Trick-or-Treating?

Visual-Aids: *It's a Saturday night – please consider incorporating visual aids such as flashing LED lights into your child's costume and your own attire. This will increase visibility to Saturday night vehicular traffic and better enable self-distancing (6ft from individuals outside your bubble) in low light conditions. If you don't own any visual aids, consider planning to make one of your first stops at one of the Halloween houses that hand out visual-aids to Trick-or-Treaters.*

- [paraphrased] statement from North Vancouver RCMP

Maintain Physical Distancing: If there is already a group in the yard of a Halloween House and there is insufficient room to maintain physical distancing, please wait your turn and allow enough space for the party to safely exit. If there is a line, please maintain at least a 6ft distance from others not in your 'bubble'.

Crowd Control: We strongly suggest that Ridgeway Elementary Trick-or-Treaters plan a one-way route prior to leaving the house and consider treating side-walks as one-way paths by sticking to the left-hand-side sidewalk. Please also try to maintain flow, particularly at corners and cross-walks (watch out for traffic!).

We also strongly suggest that parents consider self-staggering their Trick-or-Treating start times with:

- Kindergarten to Grade 2 starting at ~5:30pm;
- Grade 3 to Grade 5 starting at ~6:30pm; and
- Grade 5 to Grade 7 starting at ~7:30pm.

Respect those not celebrating: If the lights are off – please respect the household's wishes and do not visit this Halloween. There are a variety of reasons a household may choose not to hand out treats this year, there may be family members that are in the high-risk category, individuals may be trying to recover from COVID-19 themselves or in quarantine, or households may have other reasons to wish to avoid exposure. Please make sure that Trick-or-Treaters are not disturbing those who do not wish to have visitors.

Trick-or-Treat Locally: *...This year, it would best to skip Halloween parties and trick-or-treat locally in small groups...When planning your costume, try to include a non-medical mask or face covering as part of your costume, although costume masks should not be worn over top as the combination may make it difficult to breathe. For further information, I welcome you to review the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) guide to a safe Halloween here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/social-interactions/halloween>.*

- Thomas Guerrero, Executive Director, Ministry of Health, British Columbia

Staying at home?

Fireworks are dangerous and illegal without authorisation in Ridgeway Catchment (as per the Fireworks Regulation Bylaw No. 7677). Please do not consider this as an acceptable alternative to Trick-or-Treating, Halloween parties or other regular Halloween activities. We are working extra hard at Lionsgate Hospital and ask for you to do your part to not unnecessarily increase the number of emergency visits due to firework related injuries.

- Dr. Paul Hertz, General Internist, Lions' Gate Hospital – COVID-19, In-patient and Emergency Wards

Skip Halloween Parties ...and make sure there is adequate space for physical distancing ... There are a few things we can all do to push our curve back down, such as meeting fewer people, meeting in smaller groups (no bigger than 6 people), spending a shorter time together, and meeting in bigger spaces, preferably outdoors...If you are handing out treats, make sure there is adequate space for physical distancing. For those who are sick, turn off your porch light and stay home... For further information, I welcome you to review the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) guide to a safe Halloween here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/social-interactions/halloween>.

- Thomas Guerrero, Executive Director, Ministry of Health, British Columbia

Handing out Treats (/Candy)? Please see our [Halloween Guidelines for Treat-Givers](#)

Not Celebrating Halloween? Please turn-off your lights so that Trick-or-Treaters are informed