

Recommendations for COVID-Safe Fall Activities

Fall activities such as Halloween and Día de los Muertos can pose a risk of spreading COVID-19. Holiday events at school, in the community, and at home should all be conducted with COVID-19 health precautions in place.

By following a few basic safety steps, schools and families can ensure that fall activities and events are not just fun but also safe for all members of the community, including young children who are not vaccinated.



Get fully vaccinated.

Vaccines are the best protection against infection. All three vaccines that are currently available are safe and effectively reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19. Vaccination options are [listed here](#).

Stay home if you are not feeling well.

Do not attend celebrations or participate in group activities if you are feeling sick or experiencing symptoms. A runny nose, headache, and vomiting are all [symptoms of COVID-19](#).

Stay home if you have been exposed to COVID-19 and are not vaccinated.

If you have come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and you are not yet fully vaccinated, stay home.

Wear a face mask.

Even if you are vaccinated, you can contract COVID-19 and carry and spread the virus without showing symptoms. Masks are an effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, is still required to wear a face mask in indoor public settings.
- Face masks are recommended in private settings where some attendees are not vaccinated or when the setting includes people who are otherwise medically vulnerable or whose immune systems are compromised.
- A costume mask is not a substitute for a well-fitted face mask that covers the mouth and nose. Consider integrating a COVID-19-safe mask into your costume design, and remain masked while enjoying the fun.
- Wearing a costume mask over a protective cloth mask can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe.



**Coalition for
Safe Schools &
Communities**



Keep gatherings small.

Large gatherings, even if they are outdoors, pose a risk for transmission of COVID-19.

Gather outdoors.

Indoor activities where people from different households mix, like haunted houses or indoor mazes, pose a higher risk for transmission of COVID-19—especially for persons not yet vaccinated.

Be cautious when eating.

Eat outdoors, if possible, maintain distance while eating and drinking, and practice good hand hygiene.

Take safety precautions when trick-or-treating.

- If participating in traditional outdoor trick-or-treating, wear a face mask or keep your distance from others to help reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Take along hand sanitizer when going out and use it frequently. Remember to wash hands after coming home and especially before eating any treats.

Follow this guidance when traveling:

- Although the CDC and CDPH have not recently updated their guidance, everyone should follow the same steps: get vaccinated, avoid travel when sick, wear a mask when using public transportation or with others outside the household, and avoid large gatherings.
- Schools may want to increase their testing cadence of staff and students during and after peak holiday times.

After an Event, Gathering, or Travel

- To further protect yourself and loved ones, be sure to self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after participating in celebrations, activities, or travel.
- Pay special attention from days 3-7 following activities, as this is when people are most likely to develop symptoms.
- If you learn you have been in close contact with someone who tests positive, get tested and, if not fully vaccinated, stay home to quarantine.
- If you are not feeling well or test positive, stay home regardless of vaccination status.
- Children and youth who attend a TK-12 school and are unvaccinated do not qualify for modified quarantine if either of the following occur:
 - The event took place outside a school setting
 - All attendees at an event were not wearing face masks