



Yakima Health District

Media Release

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Yakima Health District Encourages Safe Halloween Celebrations

Yakima, WA- The Yakima Health District would like to encourage community members to safely celebrate Halloween this year. COVID-19 remains to be widespread in our community and implementing public health recommendations when participating in Halloween activities is crucial to our community's health and well-being. Community members are encouraged to evaluate their risk tolerance given the fact that as of October 21, Yakima County reported a case rate of 519 per 100,000 and a hospitalization rate of 6.2 per 100,000, which are high levels of COVID-19 activity.

This year, many Halloween activities will be taking place such as trick-or-treating, haunted houses and group gatherings. Community members should remember that the more people who attend from multiple households that there will be less space in between people, less airflow may be an issue, fewer individuals might not be wearing masks, and fewer people may not be fully vaccinated which means there may be a higher risk of COVID-19 transmission. If individuals choose to participate in Halloween activities, it is best to utilize various precautionary measures to remain safe and reduce the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

For individuals who are giving out candy:

- Avoid close contact with trick-or-treaters
- Give out treats outdoors, if possible.
- Set up a station with individually bagged treats for others to take.
- Wash hands before handing treats.
- Wear a mask.

For individuals collecting candy:

- Wear a mask. Remember children younger than two years old should not wear a mask.
- Wash or sanitize hands frequently.
- Social distance from others at least six feet.
- Gather in small groups.

For those attending Halloween gatherings:

- Limit the amount of people from multiple households
- Gather outdoors or with windows and doors open
- Wear a mask when not eating or drinking

For those that decide that Halloween celebrations are too risky, there are safer, alternative activities to consider celebrating Halloween, such as having a virtual/online costume party with family and friends or a Halloween-themed dinner at home. Additionally, families can celebrate by having Halloween yard decorations and a Halloween candy scavenger hunt at home.



Yakima Health District

Fall and Winter Celebrations

The best way to prepare for upcoming celebrations is by getting vaccinated against COVID-19. Getting vaccinated can provide an additional protection while traveling and gathering with others. There is still time to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before the holidays. Get vaccinated by the dates listed below:

Thanksgiving- November 25		
Pfizer	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson
First dose: Oct. 21	First dose: Oct. 14	Single dose: Nov. 11
Second dose: Nov 11	Second dose: Nov. 11	
Christmas Eve- December 24		
Pfizer	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson
First dose: Nov. 19	First dose: Nov. 12	Single dose: Dec. 10
Second dose: Dec. 10	Second dose: Dec. 10	
New Year's Eve- December 31		
Pfizer	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson
First dose: Nov. 26	First dose: Nov. 19	Single dose: Dec. 17
Second dose: Dec. 17	Second dose: Dec. 17	

Other public health recommendations:

- **Get vaccinated against both COVID-19 and seasonal flu.** Typical surges of influenza patients could overwhelm hospitals that are already full or almost full. COVID-19 and flu vaccines can be given at the same time.
- **Get tested if you have symptoms or have been exposed.** For help finding a test, including language assistance, call the state COVID-19 hotline at 1-800-525-0127 or 2-1-1.
- **Use WA Notify,** a free, exposure notification tool that works on smartphones to alert users if they may have been exposed to COVID-19 without sharing personal information.
- **Stay home if feeling sick, for any reason.**

Additional Information

www.YakimaVaccines.org

www.YakimaTesting.org

[Yakima Health District: COVID-19 Guidance for Fall and Winter Celebrations](#)

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