



Town of Dudley Massachusetts
Office of the Town Administrator
71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571

Jonathan J. Ruda
Town Administrator

DATE: September 28, 2020

TO: **ALL MEDIA OUTLETS**

FROM: Dudley Board of Selectmen
Dudley Board of Health
Dudley Fire/EMS
Dudley Police

RE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DUDLEY TRICK-OR-TREATING 2020

Traditionally, this has been the time of the year that the Board of Selectmen vote to set a time and date for our community to “Trick-or-Treat”, and to discuss the popular town-sponsored Halloween activities that our kids have always enjoyed. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to minimize the risk of spreading the virus in our community, this year, the Board of Selectmen simply declare that “Halloween”, rather than “trick-or-treating” in the Town of Dudley will be officially recognized between the hours of 5PM and 7PM on October 31, 2020. The change in designation is to remind all families, that this year, traditional “trick-or-treating” is not recommended.

However, with common sense applied, we feel that Halloween can be enjoyed while still observing the best and latest guidance and best practices from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

To that end, and for all Halloween Activities, The Town of Dudley recommends the following:

1. To the extent and the degree that children in the community engage in any activities, as always, remains at the sole discretion of parents and guardians.
2. If homeowners make the individual decision decide to hand-out treats, please consider alternative and creative ways to do so, including a curbside or “touchless”, models that will minimize the level and duration of contact
3. For home owners that may not want to risk contact, the Town suggests posting a sign and/or turning out front lights.

1. No matter what the activity, and without exception, all should stay at home and refrain from handing out Halloween treats, if:
 - you feel unwell;
 - you have tested positive for COVID-19;
 - you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19; or
 - you have traveled to or from a state that is not classified as lower risk within the last 14 days. For more information on lower risk states, please see the state's COVID-19 [Travel Order](#) webpage.
2. No matter what the form of the activity, maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet of physical distance from all other participants who are not members of the same household
3. No matter what the activity, wear a face mask or face covering.
4. Observe good hand hygiene, including hand washing and use of alcohol-based sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol. Carry hand sanitizer and use it often, especially after coming into contact with frequently touched surfaces and before eating candy.
5. Refrain from touching your face.

For specific guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MADPH), with links to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), visit <https://www.mass.gov/news/halloween-guidance-during-covid-19>

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For all information or press inquiries, please contact Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator/PIO

jruda@dudleyma.gov

508 949 8001