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## Press Release - October 8, 2020

### **Town of Watertown - Halloween - Tips for a Safe and Healthy Halloween**

For residents planning to celebrate Halloween, Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is recommending that you follow safe and healthy tips to participate in Halloween activities that may limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19. As a reminder, any Halloween activities are subject to the current state **gathering size limits** as well as applicable **sector-specific workplace safety standards**.

Consistent with the **Halloween activity guidance released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, some things to keep in mind in celebrating Halloween this year include:

#### **Trick or Treating with Kids and Passing Treats Out at Home**

- Enjoy Halloween **outside** rather than attending indoor events.
- Place candy on a platter instead of a bowl.
- Instead of traditional trick or treating, opt for one-way trick-or-treating, with treats placed outside of the home for trick-or-treaters as a “grab and go” while keeping distance from others.
- Consider leaving hand sanitizer by any treats left out for trick-or-treaters to use.

#### **Masks – Mask Up MA**

- Wear a face mask or face covering. For more information on face masks and face coverings, please see the state's **Mask Up MA** webpage.
- A costume mask is not a substitute for a face mask or face covering. To protect yourself and others, ensure you are wearing a protective face mask or covering instead of or in addition to a costume mask.

## **Other Tips and Celebration Ideas**

- 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.
- Refrain from touching your face.
- Decorate your yard for others to enjoy from their car or while on a socially-distanced walk.
- Hold virtual costume contests or pumpkin carving events.
- Celebrate with members of your household with a Halloween-themed meal, Halloween movie night, or by preparing a Halloween scavenger hunt.
- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet of physical distance from all other participants who are not members of the same household.

## **Avoid**

Attending crowded costume parties held indoors, or any gatherings that exceed indoor or outdoor gathering limits;

- Indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming; and
- Stay home and refrain from Halloween activities, including 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.

For further information, please contact the Watertown Health Department at 617-972-6446.