



# Department of Public Health



## MAYOR

Oscar Leeser

## CITY COUNCIL

### District 1

Peter Svarzbein

### District 2

Alexsandra Annello

### District 3

Cassandra Hernandez

### District 4

Joe Molinar

### District 5

Isabel Salcido

### District 6

Claudia L. Rodriguez

### District 7

Henry Rivera

### District 8

Cissy Lizarraga

## CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

## HALLOWEEN AND DIA DE LOS MUERTOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Halloween and Dia de los Muertos are two festivities that are just around the corner, and you and your family may be celebrating it a bit differently this year. The City of El Paso Department of Public Health would like for you and your family to enjoy a safe and happy Halloween and Dia de Los Muertos by following these simple recommendations aimed to protect everyone in the community:

### General

- Continue practicing prevention to avoid unnecessary risk of exposure and infection with COVID-19 or other respiratory viruses such as Flu.
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines including boosters (Bivalent).
- Outdoor events are recommended over indoor events and on large events face masks are strongly recommended for those considered high-risk for complications.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often and avoid touching your face.
- If you are sick, or you have been in contact with someone who is sick with COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19, stay home and away from others to prevent further spread of the virus.

### Trick or Treating Safety Tips

- Plan and organize a small Halloween event with neighbors to ensure the safety of your children avoiding crowded and unfamiliar neighborhoods.
- DPH would like to make the community aware of children with special needs that will be trick or treating and might be carrying a different color pumpkin basket (blue, teal, etc) signifying Autistic Disorder, food allergies, etc. Those children deserve our attention and love. Please be acquainted with those special needs before Halloween, they can have a special event within their neighborhood to keep them safe and provide them with an enjoyable holiday.

**Hector I. Ocaranza, MD, - Interim Director/Health Authority**  
Department of Public Health | 5115 El Paso Dr. | El Paso, TX 79905  
O: (915) 212-0200 | ephealth.com





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- Wear costumes that say “flame resistant” on the label. If you make your costume, use flame-resistant fabrics such as polyester or nylon.
- Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape so you’ll be more visible; make sure the costumes aren’t so long that you’re in danger of tripping.
- Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure your vision.
- Test the makeup you plan to use in advance. Put a small amount on the arm of the person who will be wearing it. If a rash, redness, swelling, or other signs of irritation develop where the makeup was applied, that’s a sign of a possible allergy.

## Safe Treats

- Don’t eat or let your children eat candy until it has been thoroughly inspected at home.
- Give your children a snack before heading out to avoid the temptation of nibbling on a treat before it has been inspected.
- In case of a food allergy, check the label to ensure the allergen isn’t present. Tell children not to accept—or eat—anything that isn’t commercially wrapped.
- Parents of very young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys from the Halloween bags.
- Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as an unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes, or tears in wrappers. Throw away anything that looks suspicious.

## Food safety tips

- Wash your hands and clean surfaces before preparing food.
- Separate food that is ready to eat from raw foods so they are not cross contaminated

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- Cook food to the right temperature and keep food that is ready to be consumed at the right temperature to avoid being in the danger zone

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- Refrigerate food left over food right away to prevent bacteria from growing

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone, please call 2-1-1 which is available 24 hours a day.

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