

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On behalf of- City of Hood River, Hood River County & Hood River County Chamber of Commerce

**HOOD RIVER CITY, COUNTY, AND CHAMBER URGE THE PUBLIC TO FOLLOW OHA GUIDELINES WITH
REGARDS TO HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES**

**With cases on the rise in Oregon and face coverings required in indoor and outdoor public spaces
statewide, Hood River cautions against trick or treating to keep Halloween SAFE.**

(HOOD RIVER, Ore.) — With a spooky season approaching and COVID-19 continuing to circulate, Hood River officials advise county residents to show their Halloween spirit this year by doubling down on dress-up and decoration and reducing their risk of exposure by avoiding trick-or-treating, haunted houses or large gatherings.

In accordance with CDC and OHA recommendations Hood River officials will not host the 2020 Safe Halloween event in downtown Hood River. The event gathers annually on Oak Street in downtown Hood River to offer local trick or treaters a safe option to stock their candy reserves. The statewide moratorium on large events and gatherings issued by Governor Kate Brown has not been lifted in time to move forward with the 2020 Hood River Downtown Safe Halloween event. The **Oregon Health Authority is recommending that Oregonians avoid traditional door-to-door trick or treating and “Trunk or Treat” events** because they are high risk activities for crowding among people outside your household. This recommendation aligns with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which also recommends families avoid traditional trick or treating.

“We are eager for the return of community celebrations and eager for the return of the Hood River Safe Halloween event, but are at a critical crossroads and must make a plea to residents that they have a moral and social responsibility to continue to practice compliance, vigilance, and an abundance of caution in our community,” said Mike Matthews, Hood River County Environmental Health. “We, as a community, want to maintain a safe environment for our children to celebrate and so recommend celebrating within your family homes and in alternative ways.”

Need some safe alternatives? Low-risk activities include holding an online costume contest, watching a scary movie online, carving pumpkins with people in your household, decorating your home, or touring the neighborhood to look at decorated houses with members of your household.

“Downtown businesses look forward to seeing trick or treaters in the future and empathize with the disappointment this may bring to local kids. They encourage children and adults alike to dress up all month long when shopping and dining downtown!” said Ashley Huckaby May, Interim Director for Visit Hood River/ Hood River County Chamber of Commerce.

For more tips to stay safe this holiday, [check out these infographics about Halloween activities](#) from Oregon Health Authority, and how to safely visit a pumpkin patch or farm, and then share them with your friends and family on your Facebook and Instagram accounts.

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