



Town of Boxford

7A Spofford Road
Boxford, Massachusetts
01921

Board of Health

6 October 2020

Re: BOH Position on Halloween Activities

The Covid-19 pandemic requires extraordinary measures for celebrations during the upcoming holiday season. The CDC has issued guidelines for holidays including Halloween (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>).

1. The BOH agrees with the CDC and strongly recommends against traditional door-to-door trick or treating, hayrides, indoor parties and haunted houses, and large outdoor parties placing children and adults in close proximity. We support and enforce Massachusetts law (Covid-19 Order #46) that prohibits indoor gatherings of more than 25, or outdoor gatherings of more than 50, including gatherings in private homes and backyards.

2. The BOH fully supports the proposed PTO family event, *Boo in Boxford*, scheduled for Saturday night, from 5-8 pm at the Town Center and Soccer Fields (rain date Sunday, 1 November). The BOH is working with the PTO to ensure the event is safe for children and adults. We encourage families to attend this event in place of door-to-door trick or treating. For information go to: <https://paperlesspto.keritech.net/Bod/custompage.cfm?cpid=5511>.

3. If parents or guardians choose to allow their children to go door-to-door to trick or treat, the BOH strongly recommends the following:

- Family groups should stay at least 6 feet away from other groups. Children should not be allowed to form groups with children from other family groups. Families should only trick-or-treat in their own neighborhood,
- Children over 4 years of age and adults should wear surgical or cloth masks (not costume masks) at all times.
- Only treats in original packages (as bought) should be accepted. No loose bags of treats, or home made cakes/cookies wrapped by the maker should be accepted.
- Children should not open any treat until they return home and the treats are inspected by a parent.
- Family members are encouraged to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands while out and when they return home.
- Those homeowners giving out treats should leave the treats separated on a table outside and allow children to pick up the treat. If homeowners wish to hand out the candy, gloves and masks should be worn.