

Forest Hills COVID-19 Trick or Treat Guidelines

This year, Forest Hills Borough will celebrate Trick or Treat Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 2 – 4 PM.

I have had some questions as to why we are holding it during the daylight hours this year. That decision was made by me after consulting with the Forest Hills Chief of Police and members of the Allegheny Health Department.

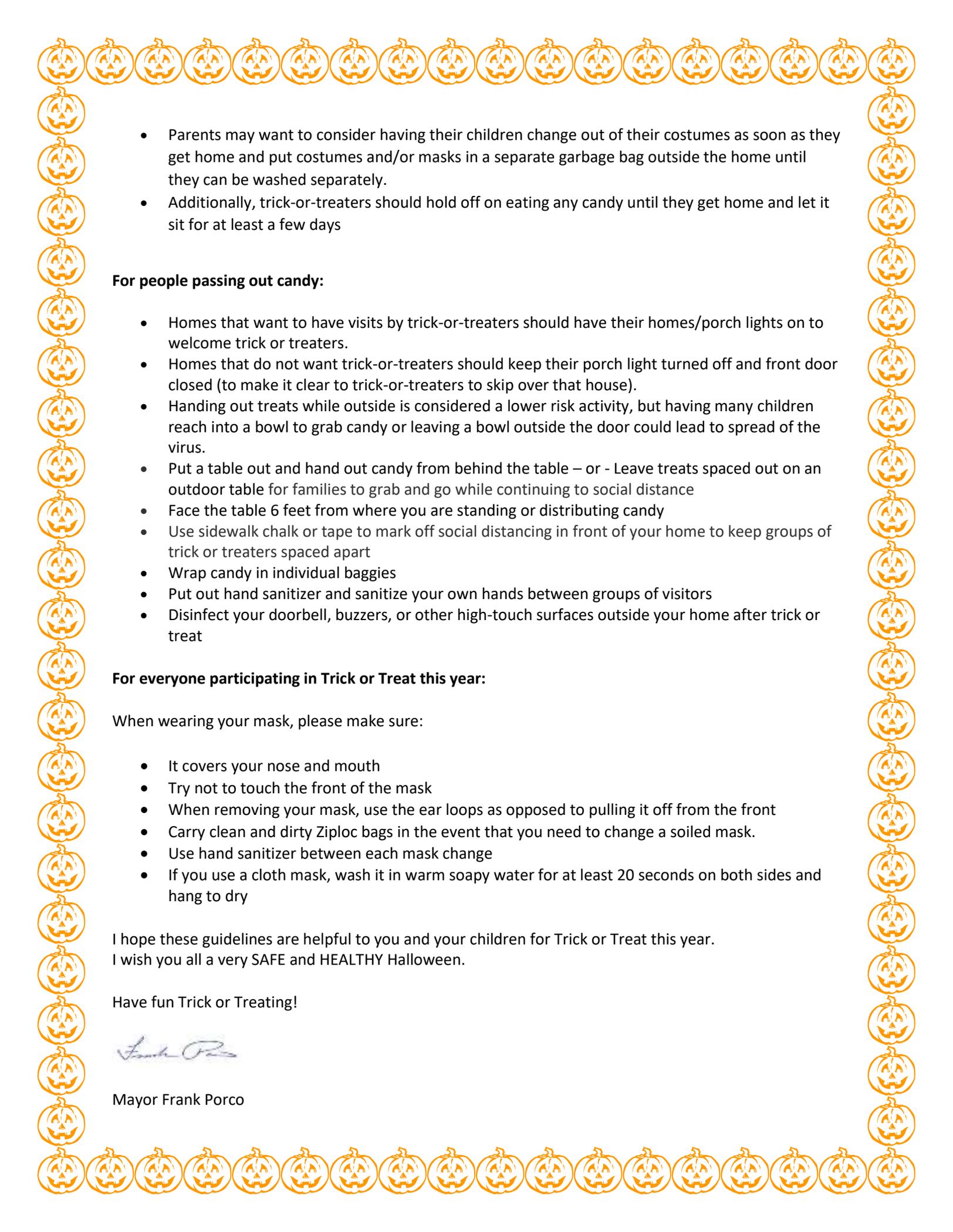
- The primary reason is, given that Halloween falls on a Saturday this year, we expect there may be Halloween parties held that evening and we feel it will be much safer for Trick or Treaters to go during the day light hours where they don't have to worry about cars travelling to and from parties, or cars which may be parked outside of peoples homes reducing visibility. While I understand this may disappoint some of the older children and parents, we think at least for this year this is the best decision to ensure a safer Trick or Treat for the children.
- The secondary reason is given our guidelines for Trick or Treat this year, we are asking for trick or treaters to wear cloth masks over their nose and mouth, and to maintain social distance between groups and it will be much easier to do this in the daylight hours and make it easier for both trick or treaters and those passing out candy to easily observe this.

It is important to note that Trick or Treat has been classified as a High-Risk activity for Halloween by the CDC. In an effort to balance some normalcy for Forest Hills Borough Children, we are holding Trick or Treat in the Borough but have established some guidelines for Trick or Treat in Forest Hills during COVID-19.

First and foremost – if you are not feeling well, are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, think you may have been exposed to COVID-19 in any way, or simply don't feel comfortable with Trick or Treat activities during the pandemic, please stay home. Let others know you are not participating in trick or treat by turning your porch light off.

For Trick or Treaters & Parents:

- Trick-or-treaters are being encouraged to stay with family members or those who live in their home or a small group of friends. They're also being encouraged to keep 6-feet away from other groups.
- Carry hand sanitizer and try to use it any time you or your child come in direct contact with a participant outside your group.
- To minimize risks, sanitize between houses and wash hands immediately after returning home.
- Face masks must be worn over your nose and mouth. If your costume has a rubber mask, that alone is not enough, a cloth mask must be worn underneath it. Remember: Bandanas and the gaiters you pull up your neck to cover the lower half of your face are not as effective as the surgical-style or other cotton masks.
- If wearing a costume mask over a cloth face covering makes it hard to breathe, consider a Halloween-themed cloth face-covering as part of the costume
- Gloves may not a good idea because you could touch your face and eyes as you adjust your mask etc.
- Trick-or-treaters should limit the number of homes they go to and stay local to their neighborhoods
- Trick-or-treaters should wash their hands when they get home.

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- Parents may want to consider having their children change out of their costumes as soon as they get home and put costumes and/or masks in a separate garbage bag outside the home until they can be washed separately.
 - Additionally, trick-or-treaters should hold off on eating any candy until they get home and let it sit for at least a few days

For people passing out candy:

- Homes that want to have visits by trick-or-treaters should have their homes/porch lights on to welcome trick or treaters.
- Homes that do not want trick-or-treaters should keep their porch light turned off and front door closed (to make it clear to trick-or-treaters to skip over that house).
- Handing out treats while outside is considered a lower risk activity, but having many children reach into a bowl to grab candy or leaving a bowl outside the door could lead to spread of the virus.
- Put a table out and hand out candy from behind the table – or - Leave treats spaced out on an outdoor table for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance
- Face the table 6 feet from where you are standing or distributing candy
- Use sidewalk chalk or tape to mark off social distancing in front of your home to keep groups of trick or treaters spaced apart
- Wrap candy in individual baggies
- Put out hand sanitizer and sanitize your own hands between groups of visitors
- Disinfect your doorbell, buzzers, or other high-touch surfaces outside your home after trick or treat

For everyone participating in Trick or Treat this year:

When wearing your mask, please make sure:

- It covers your nose and mouth
- Try not to touch the front of the mask
- When removing your mask, use the ear loops as opposed to pulling it off from the front
- Carry clean and dirty Ziploc bags in the event that you need to change a soiled mask.
- Use hand sanitizer between each mask change
- If you use a cloth mask, wash it in warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds on both sides and hang to dry

I hope these guidelines are helpful to you and your children for Trick or Treat this year.
I wish you all a very SAFE and HEALTHY Halloween.

Have fun Trick or Treating!



Mayor Frank Porco

