



Town of Mammoth Lakes

P.O. Box 1609
Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546
Ph: (760) 965-3600
Fax: (760) 934-7493

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: **Wednesday, October 14, 2020**
Contact: Stuart Brown, Parks and Recreation Director & Public Information Officer
Phone: (760) 965-3696
Email: sbrown@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov
Website: www.Townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

**HALLOWEEN AND DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATIONS
DURING COVID-19 IN THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES**

Mammoth Lakes, CA - Halloween is traditionally a fun time for families to trick-or-treat in their neighborhoods, but this year is notably different due the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town of Mammoth Lakes is providing this information to help protect individuals and their families and friends from COVID-19 while participating in Halloween and Día de los Muertos celebrations.

"Now, more than ever, we ask for vigilance and adherence to public health guidelines related to the pandemic, such as only gathering during Halloween with members of a single household, protecting one another by wearing a face covering (especially when 6-foot physical distance cannot be maintained), washing or sanitizing your hands often, and staying home if you are sick," stated Mono County Health Officer, Dr. Tom Boo.

Trick-or-Treating

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) published guidance for safer alternative ways to celebrate Halloween and Día de los Muertos. In general, the more people from different households with whom a person interacts, the closer the physical interaction is, and the longer the interaction lasts, the higher the risk that a person with COVID-19 infection (symptomatic or asymptomatic) may spread it to others. To protect yourself and your community, you should not go trick-or-treating or mix with others outside of your household unit this Halloween season as this type of mixing is not currently permitted in California and by Health Order in Mono County.

The July 30, 2020 [Mono County Health Order](#) currently prohibits gatherings of persons from different household units, regardless of size.

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Cancellation of Town Supported Halloween Festivities

The prohibition of gatherings throughout Mono County and the Town of Mammoth Lakes has forced the cancellation of the Haunted Rink and Skate Party at the Mammoth RecZone (October 30).

In addition, to protect the health and well-being of residents from the transmission of COVID-19, the Town of Mammoth Lakes will not be closing Wagon Wheel Road in the Trails neighborhood or providing traffic control or porta potties for the annual trick-or-treating event on October 31. Consequently, the Trails Homeowners Association (HOA) will not be collecting or purchasing candy to distribute to the homeowners that normally participate in this annual community event.

Safer Alternatives for Halloween and Día de los Muertos Celebrations During COVID-19

Some traditional holiday activities promote congregating and mixing of households, which increase the risk of transmitting COVID-19. For this reason, CDPH recommends that you choose a safer, alternative way to celebrate Halloween and Día de los Muertos, and strongly discourages trick-or-treating.

The safest way to celebrate Halloween is to spend time with people in the same household or to celebrate virtually. Some specific alternatives that are low risk but still capture the holiday fun include:

- Creating a haunted house or candy scavenger hunt in your home;
- Having a scary movie night and Halloween-themed activities (pumpkin carving, face painting) at home;
- Participating in online parties/contests (e.g. costume or pumpkin carvings);
- Giving treats at home only to those in your household;
- Designing face masks that reflect your child/ren's Halloween costumes;
- Preparing a Halloween basket for your children or Halloween hunt in your backyard, and;
- Dressing up homes and yards with Halloween-themed decorations.

Parks and Recreation Virtual Halloween Costume Contest

In lieu of the annual Haunted Rink and Skate Party at the Mammoth RecZone, Mammoth Parks and Recreation will host a virtual Halloween Costume Contest starting Friday, October 30 through Sunday, November 1, 2020. Costume photos can be submitted on Instagram and Facebook using the hashtag #MammothHalloween.

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Best Costume in several categories will win a gift card to Hugs Ice Cream, Mammoth Fun Shop, Booky Joint, or the Mammoth Ice Rink. All submissions must be received by **Sunday, November 1** at midnight to be considered for voting. Winners will be announced on **Thursday, November 5** in the *Recreation This Week* newsletter and on the Mammoth Parks N Rec Facebook page.

Additional information is available online by visiting the Mono County COVID-19 Portal in English: [MonoHealth.com/Coronavirus](https://monohealth.com/coronavirus) or Spanish: <https://monohealth.com/coronavirus-es>.

Cover. Distance. Wash and #StaySafeToStayOpen!

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