

## Kids, don't shout or sing for your treat this Halloween: Public Health

Youngsters have the green light to go trick-or-treating this Sunday for Halloween, but York Region Public Health is reminding kids and parents alike to do so safely.

Dr. Richard Gould, York Region's Acting Medical Officer of Health says that anyone considering going out on Halloween night should stay home even if you have mild symptoms of COVID-19 and, if you're symptom free, that masks that are part of your costume just aren't going to cut it.

“Remain outdoors as much as possible and if celebrating indoors, be sure to maintain physical distance and wear a face covering,” said Dr. Gould on Monday. “Costume masks should not be worn over face coverings as it could hinder breathing. Take turns on door steps one at a time. Do not shout or sing for your treats and use hand sanitizer often.

“Those giving out treats should not give out treats if you have symptoms, even if they are mild. Keep interactions short. Consider wearing a face covering when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Give out only purchased and packaged treats. Do not ask trick or treaters to sing or shout. Clean your hands often throughout the evening using soap and water or hand sanitizer.

“We want everyone celebrating Halloween to have a good time [but] we must continue to be vigilant so we can continue to celebrate upcoming events and holidays. We all have a role to play, which includes following current public health measures and getting vaccinated.”

**By Brock Weir** Editor Local Journalism Initiative Reporter