



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JOINT BASE MYER – HENDERSON HALL
204 LEE AVENUE
FORT MYER, VIRGINIA 22211-1199

IMMH-ZA

21 October 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Approved Halloween Activities

1. **Purpose.** This memorandum provides guidance for safely celebrating Halloween while ensuring good COVID-19 risk mitigation is being followed, such as social distancing and the wearing of face coverings.

2. While Halloween typically represents a time of fun and excitement for children and adults alike, the current Halloween season will be different than prior years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In general, the more closely people interact with each other and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. The best way to avoid becoming infected is to avoid being exposed to the virus altogether. This is particularly important for people at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. This may mean choosing not to participate in Halloween activities during the pandemic. To protect against COVID-19, everyone should avoid close contact with people who do not live in their household, wear a mask (cloth face covering), and practice social distancing and frequent and proper hand washing. Some Halloween activities are higher risk than others. Off-base Halloween activities where adequate social distancing cannot be met, should also be avoided to reduce the likelihood of spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to the JBM-HH population.

3. The following are Halloween activities **not authorized** on JBM-HH:

- Traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed out to children who go door to door.
- Trunk-or-treat events where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots.
- Attending crowded, indoor costume parties.
- Attending indoor haunted houses where people are crowded together and screaming.

4. The following are **Alternative/recommended** Halloween activities:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them.
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends.
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space.

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- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance.

- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest.

- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with.

- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house.

5. Our focus is to keep the JBM-HH community safe while also allowing a fun activity that many families are looking forward to. JBM-HH will be offering alternate activities for those who want to participate in the Halloween festivities. In lieu of traditional Halloween events, JBM-HH will be seeking those individuals who would like to participate in a community-wide decorating contest, (i.e house/yard decorating, or office doors). We can manage our risk, make smart decisions, and still have a fun and safe Halloween.

6. Point of contact for this memorandum is Troy W. Dennison, Operations Specialist, at

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