

Transcript of Audio-Video for Lori Grooms, OSF HealthCare director of Infection Control and Prevention

Grooms says it's best to incorporate a medical-grade or cloth mask into a Halloween costume.

“Let’s say your child is going to be a cat, get a mask on which you can draw the cat’s nose and whiskers. Or if they’re going to be an angel, get a white mask. Somehow, try to incorporate it into the costume.” (:17)

Grooms warns that kids should stay within their smaller group of friends and keep a three to six-foot physical distance from others.

“If there’s a group of kids at the door step, you may not want your kids going up to the door, especially if you don’t know who the children are. You might want to step back and wait for them to exit before you go up; again avoiding those big, cluster groups.” (:16)

She suggests additional precautions if there’s someone at home who is immunocompromised.

“If you’re comfortable with your child handing it (candy) out, another additional level (of safety is having them wear a mask or have the treat set out but off to the side where they can interact and talk to the people as they come by.” (:18)

No need to quarantine candy but kids should still wash their hands before eating it.

“Eating Halloween candy is no different than eating a candy bar you pick up at the grocery store. You want to make sure your hands are clean because your hands are going to have more bacteria or viruses on them than you would pick up from the wrapper itself.” (:16)