

Celebrating Halloween Safely (*Interview Transcripts*)

Bill Walsh, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, OSF HealthCare

“Drive-by haunted houses I’ve heard of where you stay in your car and drive by the haunted house – is something that we could do. Even some outdoor activities incur some significant risk, such as apple picking, corn mazes. If you’re gathering in groups of people, especially people that you don’t live with, that increases your risk even if it’s outdoors.” (:24)

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“A Halloween mask is not the mask we’re talking about. When we talk about a mask, we’re talking about (this) type of face covering that covers your nose and covers your mouth and it prevents droplets from being pushed out so that you can transmit the virus to others. So no matter what Halloween mask you’re wearing, you really should consider always keeping your nose and mouth covered by a proper face mask.” (:27)

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“What we can do is have a virtual Halloween party or a virtual costume party. Now that we have all these avenues such as Zoom to record and transmit video, a virtual Halloween or costume party can be done quite easily.” (:18)

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“Buying a pumpkin at a grocery store is the same risk as going to the grocery store for other essential items. If you’re going to have a pumpkin carving session at your house, you should do it with your family and those you live with only. It’s not a good idea to have a party where you are carving pumpkins indoors – that will be a high risk activity.” (:22)

Bill Walsh, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, OSF HealthCare

“Doing things at home with your family such as carving pumpkins and decorating your home is certainly something that can be done safely.” (:08)