



Our reference: FOI20/55



#### **DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION**

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act) received by ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) on Friday 30 October 2020.

This application requested access to:

"I seek internal correspondence and drafts relating to the formation of the advice for "having a COVID safe Halloween", distributed has part of the COVID-19 Update. These include emails and draft documents that led to preparing the advice for "Having a CovidSafe Halloween"

I do not seek duplicates and am happy for staff members who are not at senior levels, to be removed. Personal details such as office location or personal phone number are not sought either."

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. ACTHD was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Friday 27 November 2020.** 

I have identified 9 documents holding the information within the scope of your access application. This is outlined in the schedule of documents included at <u>Attachment A</u> to this decision letter.

#### Decisions

I have decided to:

- grant full access to 1 document; and
- grant part access to 8 documents.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as <u>Attachment B</u> to this letter.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act:
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request; and
- The Human Rights Act 2004.

#### **Full Access**

I have decided to grant full access to 1 document at reference 9.

## **Partial Access**

I have decided to grant partial access to 8 documents at reference 1-8.

### Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2.1(a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability.
- Schedule 2.1(a)(xi) reveal environmental or health risks or measures relating to public health and safety.

#### Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the non-disclosure of the documents:

 Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy, or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004.

The information that has been redacted is related to employee mobile numbers and external, non-ACT Government staff personal details. On balance, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information. This does not compromise the Government information being disclosed.

#### Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

### Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, ACTHD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log.

#### Ombudsman review

The decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in ACT Health's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman GPO Box 442 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au

Website: ombudsman.act.gov.au

## ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Level 4, 1 Moore St GPO Box 370 Canberra City ACT 2601 Telephone: (02) 6207 1740 http://www.acat.act.gov.au/

## **Further assistance**

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email <a href="mailto:HealthFOI@act.gov.au">HealthFOI@act.gov.au</a>.

Yours sincerely

Vanessa Dal Molin

**Executive Branch Manager**Office of the Director-General

Z6 November 2020



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access.

Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately.

Information about what is published on open access is available online at: <a href="http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/consumers/freedom-information">http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/consumers/freedom-information</a>

APPLICANT NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	FILE NUMBER
	"I seek internal correspondence and drafts relating to the formation of the advice for "having a COVID safe	FOI20/55
	Halloween", distributed has part of the COVID-19 Update. These include emails and draft documents that led to	
	preparing the advice for "Having a CovidSafe Halloween"	
	I do not seek duplicates and am happy for staff members who are not at senior levels, to be removed. Personal	
	details such as office location or personal phone number are not sought either."	

Ref Number	Page Number	Description	Date	Status Decision	Factor	Open Access release status
1.	1-5	Email: RE: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra	15/09/20	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the <i>Human Rights Act 2004</i> ;	Yes
2.	6-10	Email: RE: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra	15/09/20	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
3.	11-16	Email: FW: HerCanberra Halloween content	22/09/20	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes

4.	17-22	Email: FW: Plans re: Halloween? With attachment	08/10/20	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
5.	23-30	Email: RE: Plans re: Halloween? with attachment	12/10/20	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
6.	31-32	Email: RE: FOR RESPONSE: media enquiry – News Corp Australia	12/10/20	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
7.	33-37	Email: RE: Radio With attachment	27/10/20	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
8.	38-43	Email: RE: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID- 19 Update – 28 October 2020	28/10/20	Partial release	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
9.	44-47	Email: ACT COVID-19 Update – 28 October 2020	28/10/20	Full release		Yes

**Total Number of Documents** 

9.

## Pond, Aleks (Health)

From:

Gibson, Penny

Sent:

Tuesday, 15 September 2020 12:22 PM

To:

Williams, Gareth

Subject:

RE: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

#### UNOFFICIAL

Thanks Gareth

I'll check that messaging and great idea to think outside the box with solutions.

Penny

From: Williams, Gareth < Gareth. Williams@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 15 September 2020 12:19 PM
To: Gibson, Penny < Penny. Gibson@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) < Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

#### UNOFFICIAL

Hi Penny,

I think this looks good. Is the 'value add' info from the website (retro-fitted to fit Halloween situations), or is it your own wording? The only thing I'm not sure on is how often we are asking people to sanitise their hands, but if this is the advice, then it's the advice. Can we get this cleared through the OCHO and seek their advice about whether CHO wants to clear? (noting as it's technically a media enquiry, she may want to?)

The only other thing I can think of is maybe a message saying that if people don't feel comfortable door knocking the houses of people they don't know but still want to do something with their kids, maybe a group of friends could get together and set up stalls in a backyard that their kids (known to each other) could visit to 'trick or treat'. Or maybe do it more like an Easter Egg hunt, but a Halloween hunt for treats I the house or backyard.

These are just ideas...

What do you think?

#### **Gareth Williams**

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

E: covid-19media@act.gov.au Media line: 0435 258 508

ACT Health Directorate - Level 2, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 10 September 2020 3:55 PM

**To:** Williams, Gareth < <u>Gareth.Williams@act.gov.au</u>> **Subject:** FW: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

UNOFFICIAL

Hi Gareth

In response to question, OCHO has replied about Halloween (highlight). I suggest the following value adding following our discussion to help Laura out as much as possible. Do you have any other ideas we can add?

## Halloween messaging:

There are no restrictions stopping trick or treating this Halloween, but we would like to remind the community of the following:

We're all used to our new physical distancing and personal hygiene regime, so let's keep it up for our own safety—and the safety of our family, friends, colleagues and the wider community.

#### Trick or treaters:

- Please take personal responsibility for your own—and your children's—safety
- Don't go trick or treating if you are feeling unwell
- Go trick or treating with people you know
- Remember physical distancing—keep at least 1.5 metres away from other trick or treating groups and from people who answer the door
- Remember to cover your mouth with your sleeve or a tissue if you sneeze or cough and to use hand sanitiser immediately afterwards
- Sanitise your hands frequently, particularly after touching door knockers, surfaces or pumpkins.

If you are giving out tricks or treats at your home:

- Take personal responsibility for your own COVID safety
- Don't give treats if you are feeling unwell
- Stay 1.5 metres away from the trick or treaters
- Sanitise your doorbell or door knocker after each group, and your hands if you have touched anyone
- Keep the handling of treats to a minimum.

Despite the encouraging position of the ACT, we don't exist in a vacuum and the situation could change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions before Halloween. New Public Health Directions may need to be issued to restrict activities like trick or treating.

Thanks

Penny

From: McNeill, Laura (Health) < Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer

Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 1:55 PM

To: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media @act.gov.au >; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer

<<u>ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au</u>>

Subject: RE: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

#### UNOFFICIAL

There are no restrictions that would prevent trick or treating, so the personal responsibility wording in the way to go.

From: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 1:43 PM

To: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au > Subject: FW: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

## UNOFFICIAL

Hi Laura

Please see enquiry below – given current restrictions, will trick or treating be allowed for Halloween on 31 October? If so, we can package up the response around personal responsibility for being COVID-safe.

Thanks Penny

From

Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 1:27 PM

**To:** COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au > **Subject:** Re: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Penny, hope you are well!

I'm just thinking about the Halloween article for this in a few weeks' time. Do you know if there is any information at this stage whether trick or treating will not be allowed under the current restrictions in place?

Warm regards,

Senior Journalist HerCanberra

From: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 2:12 PM

To:

Cc: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au > Subject: FW: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

UNOFFICIAL

Hi

Apologies for not getting back to you earlier. We are still keen to work with you on your upcoming articles. I've put some generic words for you below, but we are happy to support you with extra information around the specific messages/activities you want to focus on. Perhaps you could call me about how we can do that?

### Attributable to the Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerryn Coleman:

The ACT remains in a good position, with no active cases of COVID-19 and the last new case being more than six weeks ago. We thank everyone for their hard work and for continuing to follow the health advice, which has helped us remain COVID free for so long.

However, now is not the time to be complacent. As the weather warms up and people are out and about more, physical distancing and personal hygiene will be more important than ever.

Playgrounds, outdoor fitness stations, dog parks and BBQs in the ACT are open, with the ACT Government implementing additional cleaning efforts in these locations. All other parks and reserves across the ACT remain open

with public gathering rules in place. Parks and reserves close to Canberra are open and provide opportunities for people to access these areas for dispersed exercise and recreation opportunities.

When using these community facilities, we remind people to take personal responsibility for maintaining good hygiene including washing or sanitising your hands before and after use of equipment and maintaining physical distancing from other Canberrans. If facilities are busy or there is a large crowd, we recommend people consider coming back another time during a quieter period.

It is important to understand that despite the encouraging position of the ACT, we do not exist in a vacuum. The situation can change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions. As we continue to monitor the evolving situations in Victoria, NSW and Queensland and the challenges they are facing, it is likely that some level of restrictions will be needed in the ACT and these will be the new normal, at least for some time.

All public gatherings continue to have a limit of one person per four square metres, with restrictions on the number of people in each indoor and outdoor space up to 100 people. These control measures continue to be vital to ensure the ACT can respond quickly to any situation, if necessary.

The ACT Government will continue to assess the position of the ACT and provide regular, up-to-date messaging to the community, businesses and industry based on the best available information and the potential benefits and risks to the ACT.

For local public events and activities that are being planned for the warmer months, organisers are required to comply with the relevant Public Health Directions, and we strongly recommend they develop and follow a COVID Safe plan (even if they are not required to have one under the public health directions). Certain aspects of public events may be restricted under Public Health Directions, including the number of people in attendance. Businesses and organisations can seek further information from the ACT Government's COVID-19 Business Helpline or the COVID-19 website.

We also know that as the weather gets warmer, the south coast is a popular location for many Canberrans. We remind ACT residents who are considering travelling to the south coast or other locations in regional NSW, to keep up to date with the latest public health alerts from NSW Health and follow any related instructions if you have visited a venue or area that has been associated with a cluster of COVID-19 cases. This may include getting tested for even the mildest symptoms.

While travelling, it is your responsibility to maintain physical distancing, practise good hygiene and adhere to all requirements of the rules of the state you are travelling to.

Our best defence still remains the simple things we can all do to keep us, our families, our neighbours and our community safe:

- 1. Keep 1.5 metres apart whenever possible and avoid crowded areas
- 2. Continue good hand and respiratory hygiene
- 3. Stay home if you are unwell and get tested if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

Thank you Penny

Penny Gibson

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

E: covid-19media@act.gov.au

P: 6207 2624

Media line: 0435 258 508

ACT Health Directorate - Level 2, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From

**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 August 2020 12:16 PM **To:** Faulks, Amy < <u>Amy.Faulks@act.gov.au</u>> **Subject:** Re: Choose Local campaign

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Amy,

Thanks again for your time on the phone earlier.

As discussed, I was thinking a HerCanberra article about the incoming spring/summer ahead, and how it might look a bit different including Halloween (trick or treating), Christmas (children not being able to sit on Santa's knee due to social distancing), Melbourne Cup gatherings and large Christmas parties not going ahead, and finally holidays being affected due to border closures.

I thought we could list other ideas for Canberrans to still celebrate and get in the festive mood as an alternative to the things they might usually do. It might be good to get a few quotes from a spokesperson from ACT Health as an authoritative voice or to collaborate so we can be consistent with messaging and what we can/can't do etc.

If it's too large an article, perhaps we could even break it up in accordance with each event (e.g. one article on Christmas ideas, one on Halloween etc) and release them just prior to each event. An example of the format is the below:

https://christmasphere.com/socially-distanced-christmas-parties/

Please let me know if this is something you may be interested in collaborating on.

Warm regards,

Senior Journalist HerCanberra
This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

## Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From:

Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health)

Sent:

Tuesday, 15 September 2020 7:35 PM

To:

ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer

Cc:

Coleman, Kerryn (Health)

Subject:

RE: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

#### UNOFFICIAL

### Hi Laura,

Thanks for this. I've just made some minor additions. I think this is all consistent with the advice we have previously provided, so I think it is good to go... Have copied in Kerryn in the event she has concerns.

From: McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au> On Behalf Of ACT Health Office of the Chief Health

Officer

Sent: Tuesday, 15 September 2020 2:52 PM

To: Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) < Vanessa. Dal Molin@act.gov.au>

Cc: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

#### UNOFFICIAL

Looks ok to me? Are you happy to clear this one?

From: Gibson, Penny < Penny.Gibson@act.gov.au > Sent: Tuesday, 15 September 2020 1:00 PM

To: ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au >; Williams, Gareth < Gareth.Williams@act.gov.au >

Subject: FW: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

### UNOFFICIAL

#### Hi Laura

We are working with Her Canberra to develop specific messaging for events. You've already said that Halloween is not special but we have developed the following response for OCHO clearance, trying to be serious but adding a bit of levity. Technically it's a media enquiry.

## Halloween messaging:

There are no restrictions stopping trick or treating this Halloween, but we would like to remind the community of the following:

We're all used to our new physical distancing and personal hygiene regime, so let's keep it up for our own safety—and the safety of our family, friends, colleagues and the wider community.

#### Trick or treaters:

- Please take personal responsibility for your own—and your children's—safety
- Don't go trick or treating if you are feeling unwell
- Go trick or treating with people you know
- Remember physical distancing—keep at least 1.5 metres away from other trick or treating groups and from people who answer the door who are not known to you
- Remember your COVID hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Sanitise your hands after touching door knockers ... or pumpkins ... or spiders and other creepy crawly Halloween decorations.

If you are giving out tricks or treats at your home:

- Take personal responsibility for your own COVID safety
- Don't give treats if you are feeling unwell
- Keep the handling of treats to a minimum and ensure that treats are individually wrapped.
- Stay 1.5 metres away from the trick or treaters if they are not known to you
- Remember your COVID hand and respiratory hygiene.

If people don't feel comfortable door knocking but still want to do Halloween with their kids, maybe look at alternatives. Perhaps a group of friends could get together and set up decorated stalls in a backyard so their kids could visit each stall to 'trick or treat'. Or maybe they could have an 'Easter egg hunt' style Halloween hunt for treats in a specific location.

Despite the encouraging position of the ACT, we don't exist in a vacuum and the situation could change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions before Halloween. New Public Health Directions may need to be issued to restrict activities like trick or treating.

Thanks Penny

Penny Gibson

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

E: covid-19media@act.gov.au Media line: 0435 258 508

ACT Health Directorate - Level 2, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From: McNeill, Laura (Health) < Laura. McNeill@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of ACT Health Office of the Chief Health

Officer

Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 1:55 PM

To: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer

<<u>ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au></u>

Subject: RE: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

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Warm regards,

Senior Journalist HerCanberra

From: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 2:12 PM

То

**Cc:** COVID-19 Media < <a href="mailto:COVID-19Media@act.gov.au">COVID-19Media@act.gov.au</a> <a href="mailto:Subject: FW">Subject: FW</a>: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

#### UNOFFICIAL

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distancing from other Canberrans. If facilities are busy or there is a large crowd, we recommend people consider coming back another time during a quieter period.

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Thank you Penny

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From:

**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 August 2020 12:16 PM **To:** Faulks, Amy < <u>Amy.Faulks@act.gov.au</u>> **Subject:** Re: Choose Local campaign

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Hi Amy,

Thanks again for your time on the phone earlier.

As discussed, I was thinking a HerCanberra article about the incoming spring/summer ahead, and how it might look a bit different including Halloween (trick or treating), Christmas (children not being able to sit on Santa's knee due to social distancing), Melbourne Cup gatherings and large Christmas parties not going ahead, and finally holidays being affected due to border closures.

I thought we could list other ideas for Canberrans to still celebrate and get in the festive mood as an alternative to the things they might usually do. It might be good to get a few quotes from a spokesperson from ACT Health as an authoritative voice or to collaborate so we can be consistent with messaging and what we can/can't do etc.

If it's too large an article, perhaps we could even break it up in accordance with each event (e.g. one article on Christmas ideas, one on Halloween etc) and release them just prior to each event. An example of the format is the below:

https://christmasphere.com/socially-distanced-christmas-parties/

Please let me know if this is something you may be interested in collaborating on.

Warm regards,

Senior Journalist HerCanberra	
This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immed should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.	recipient, diately. You

## McNeill, Laura (Health)

From:

COVID-19 Media

Sent:

Tuesday, 22 September 2020 8:42 AM

To:

ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer

Cc:

COVID-19 Media; Pulli, Tracey (Health); Williams, Gareth

Subject:

FW: HerCanberra Halloween content

## UNOFFICIAL

#### Hi Laura

Further to my email last week with the draft Halloween content for Her Canberra, Tracey has asked for some more information to be included in the response to Her Canberra and for CHO approval. Can you please check the below (in red) and advise if it's okay to send to Her Canberra?

# Boo-yah! How to have a COVID-safe Halloween

In recent years Halloween has soared in popularity in Canberra. Last year alone saw streets filled with crowds of kids and adults alike jumping on board the trick or treat train. But what will it look like this year, given the COVID-19 pandemic? Luckily, trick or treating is not cancelled and you can still have a boo-tiful Halloween. Here are a few ways to stay COVID safe thanks to ACT Health...

- Don't be a jerk-o-lantern avoid trick or treating or handing out treats if you are feeling unwell
- #Squadghouls! Go trick or treating with people you know
- Remember physical distancing—keep at least 1.5 metres away from other trick or treating groups and from people who are not known to you
- Creep it clean: remember your COVID hand and respiratory hygiene
- Keep a bottle of sanitiser handy and sanitise your hands after touching door knockers ... or pumpkins ... or spiders and other creepy crawly Halloween decorations
- Witch, please. Take personal responsibility for your own—and your children's—safety

Keep the handling of treats to a minimum, and ensure that treats are individually wrapped. Enjoy
gobblin' up your Halloween treats!

B Flex

For those who don't feel comfortable door knocking but still want to celebrate Halloween, here are a few alternative ideas:

- Gather a group of friends and set up decorated stalls in a backyard so their kids can visit each stall
  to 'trick or treat'
- Try an Easter-style Halloween hunt for treats in a specific location
- Pull out all the stops decorating in and outside your home, just for the fun of it. Hang spiderwebs and lights, decorate or carve multiple pumpkins — you could even have a family contest and ask neighbours to vote on their favourites

stay away from atomated areas

Dud So

Grab some popcorn and host a movie scare-athon, complete with your favourite spooky flicks.

## For those who don't feel comfortable being door knocked

If your neighbourhood doesn't already have a system for letting trick or treaters know you want to be part of Halloween, please put a friendly notice on your front door asking trick or treaters not to knock.

Witch-ing you a Happy Halloween!

Despite the encouraging position of the ACT, the situation could change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions, before Halloween. If so, new-Public Health Directions public health advice may need to be issued that may restrict gatherings of people and affect activities like therefore affect trick or treating.

Thanks Penny

From

Sent: Thursday, 17 September 2020 12:09 PM

To: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au > Subject: Re: HerCanberra Halloween content

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Penny, I have incorporated your tips in the article, thank you. Just attaching so you can see; it hasn't yet been finalised as we are also working with Visit Canberra on this too but let me know if any issues with the layout.

From: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 17 September 2020 10:56 AM

To:

Cc: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au >

Subject: HerCanberra Halloween content

UNOFFICIAL

Hi

Please find below some specific Halloween messaging.

#### Halloween messaging:

There are no restrictions stopping trick or treating this Halloween, but we would like to remind the community of the following:

We're all used to our new physical distancing and personal hygiene regime, so let's keep it up for our own safety—and the safety of our family, friends, colleagues and the wider community.

### Trick or treaters:

- 1. Please take personal responsibility for your own—and your children's—safety
- 2. Don't go trick or treating if you are feeling unwell

- 3. Go trick or treating with people you know
- 4. Remember physical distancing—keep at least 1.5 metres away from other trick or treating groups and from people who are not known to you
- 5. Remember your COVID hand and respiratory hygiene.
- 6. Sanitise your hands after touching door knockers ... or pumpkins ... or spiders and other creepy crawly Halloween decorations.

If you are giving out tricks or treats at your home:

- 1. Take personal responsibility for your own COVID safety
- 2. Don't give treats if you are feeling unwell
- 3. Keep the handling of treats to a minimum and ensure that treats are individually wrapped.
- 4. Stay 1.5 metres away from the trick or treaters if they are not known to you
- 5. Remember your COVID hand and respiratory hygiene.

If people don't feel comfortable door knocking but still want to do Halloween with their kids, maybe look at alternatives. Perhaps a group of friends could get together and set up decorated stalls in a backyard so their kids could visit each stall to 'trick or treat'. Or maybe they could have an 'Easter egg hunt' style Halloween hunt for treats in a specific location.

Despite the encouraging position of the ACT, we don't exist in a vacuum and the situation could change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions before Halloween. New Public Health Directions may need to be issued to restrict activities like trick or treating.

Thanks

Penny

### Penny Gibson

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

E: covid-19media@act.gov.au Media line: 0435 258 508

ACT Health Directorate - Level 2, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

#### From

Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 1:27 PM
To: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au > Subject: Re: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Penny, hope you are well!

I'm just thinking about the Halloween article for this in a few weeks' time. Do you know if there is any information at this stage whether trick or treating will not be allowed under the current restrictions in place?

Warm regards,

Senior Journalist HerCanberra From: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 2:12 PM

To

Cc: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au > Subject: FW: Request to collaborate with HerCanberra

#### UNOFFICIAL

Hi

Apologies for not getting back to you earlier. We are still keen to work with you on your upcoming articles. I've put some generic words for you below, but we are happy to support you with extra information around the specific messages/activities you want to focus on. Perhaps you could call me about how we can do that?

## Attributable to the Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerryn Coleman:

The ACT remains in a good position, with no active cases of COVID-19 and the last new case being more than six weeks ago. We thank everyone for their hard work and for continuing to follow the health advice, which has helped us remain COVID free for so long.

However, now is not the time to be complacent. As the weather warms up and people are out and about more, physical distancing and personal hygiene will be more important than ever.

Playgrounds, outdoor fitness stations, dog parks and BBQs in the ACT are open, with the ACT Government implementing additional cleaning efforts in these locations. All other parks and reserves across the ACT remain open with public gathering rules in place. Parks and reserves close to Canberra are open and provide opportunities for people to access these areas for dispersed exercise and recreation opportunities.

When using these community facilities, we remind people to take personal responsibility for maintaining good hygiene including washing or sanitising your hands before and after use of equipment and maintaining physical distancing from other Canberrans. If facilities are busy or there is a large crowd, we recommend people consider coming back another time during a quieter period.

It is important to understand that despite the encouraging position of the ACT, we do not exist in a vacuum. The situation can change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions. As we continue to monitor the evolving situations in Victoria, NSW and Queensland and the challenges they are facing, it is likely that some level of restrictions will be needed in the ACT and these will be the new normal, at least for some time.

All public gatherings continue to have a limit of one person per four square metres, with restrictions on the number of people in each indoor and outdoor space up to 100 people. These control measures continue to be vital to ensure the ACT can respond guickly to any situation, if necessary.

The ACT Government will continue to assess the position of the ACT and provide regular, up-to-date messaging to the community, businesses and industry based on the best available information and the potential benefits and risks to the ACT.

For local public events and activities that are being planned for the warmer months, organisers are required to comply with the relevant Public Health Directions, and we strongly recommend they develop and follow a COVID Safe plan (even if they are not required to have one under the public health directions). Certain aspects of public events may be restricted under Public Health Directions, including the number of people in attendance. Businesses and organisations can seek further information from the ACT Government's COVID-19 Business Helpline or the COVID-19 website.

We also know that as the weather gets warmer, the south coast is a popular location for many Canberrans. We remind ACT residents who are considering travelling to the south coast or other locations in regional NSW, to keep up to date with the latest public health alerts from NSW Health and follow any related instructions if you have

visited a venue or area that has been associated with a cluster of COVID-19 cases. This may include getting tested for even the mildest symptoms.

While travelling, it is your responsibility to maintain physical distancing, practise good hygiene and adhere to all requirements of the rules of the state you are travelling to.

Our best defence still remains the simple things we can all do to keep us, our families, our neighbours and our community safe:

- 1. Keep 1.5 metres apart whenever possible and avoid crowded areas
- 2. Continue good hand and respiratory hygiene
- 3. Stay home if you are unwell and get tested if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

Thank you Penny

Penny Gibson

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

E: covid-19media@act.gov.au

P: 6207 2624

Media line: 0435 258 508

ACT Health Directorate - Level 2, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 19 August 2020 12:16 PM
To: Faulks, Amy < Amy. Faulks@act.gov.au >
Subject: Re: Choose Local campaign

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Amy,

Thanks again for your time on the phone earlier.

As discussed, I was thinking a HerCanberra article about the incoming spring/summer ahead; and how it might look a bit different including Halloween (trick or treating), Christmas (children not being able to sit on Santa's knee due to social distancing), Melbourne Cup gatherings and large Christmas parties not going ahead, and finally holidays being affected due to border closures.

I thought we could list other ideas for Canberrans to still celebrate and get in the festive mood as an alternative to the things they might usually do. It might be good to get a few quotes from a spokesperson from ACT Health as an authoritative voice or to collaborate so we can be consistent with messaging and what we can/can't do etc.

If it's too large an article, perhaps we could even break it up in accordance with each event (e.g. one article on Christmas ideas, one on Halloween etc) and release them just prior to each event. An example of the format is the below:

https://christmasphere.com/socially-distanced-christmas-parties/

Please let me know if this is something you may be interested in collaborating on.

Warm regards,
Senior Journalist HerCanberra
· ·
This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.
W   P   P   P   B   B   B   B   B   W   W   W   W   W

## Colquhoun, Judith (Health)

From:

Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health)

Sent:

Thursday, 8 October 2020 9:55 PM

To:

Hare, Merryn (Health)

Cc:

Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Whybrow, Kirsty (Health)

Subject:

FW: Plans re: Halloween?

Attachments:

Halloween advice 1.docx

#### OFFICIAL

## Merryn,

Just an FYI. We have developed some guidance on holding Halloween events after the Events exemption team started to receive many queries about what can and cannot be done. Kirsty has developed some guidance, based on already published advice. We've asked the Medical team to take a quick look and will then likely send to PICC for a design before Kerryn's clearance.

This will likely come through next week.

Thanks

Vanessa

From: Whybrow, Kirsty (Health) < Kirsty. Whybrow@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of COVIDexemptions events

Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2020 6:30 PM

To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) < Vanessa. Johnston@act.gov.au> Cc: Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.DalMolin@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Plans re: Halloween?

#### OFFICIAL

#### Dear Vanessa

We are getting a few requests through the Events Exemptions process for Halloween events (the suburban ones where entire suburbs get involved).

Would you be able to have one of your team review the attached please? I have pulled it together from CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween) and other advice (such as wording approved by Vanessa DM and PICC for a HerCanberra article). We'd propose to put this on our website and direct applicants to it.

Thank you

Kirsty

#### Kirsty Whybrow

**COVID-19 Event Exemptions** 

Ph: 02 5124 6142 | Email: kirsty.whybrow@act.gov.au | COVIDexemptions.events@act.gov.au

Office of the Chief Health Officer | ACT Health Directorate

Bowes St Woden | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land I live and work on and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. I respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) < Vanessa. Dal Molin@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2020 11:07 AM

To: COVIDexemptions events < COVIDexemptions.events@act.gov.au>; Jarvis, Justin (Health)

<<u>Justin.Jarvis@act.gov.au</u>>

Cc: Keene, Toby (Health) < Toby. Keene@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Plans re: Halloween?

#### **OFFICIAL**

Thanks Kirsty – great advice on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US) on Holiday celebrations, including Halloween. We could borrow from here:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween

Thanks Vanessa

From: Whybrow, Kirsty (Health) < Kirsty. Whybrow@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of COVIDexemptions events

Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2020 9:35 AM

To: Jarvis, Justin (Health) < Justin. Jarvis@act.gov.au>

Cc: Keene, Toby (Health) < Toby.Keene@act.gov.au >; Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) < Vanessa.DalMolin@act.gov.au >

Subject: RE: Plans re: Halloween?

#### **OFFICIAL**

Hi there

We have received a few events exemption requests for Halloween community events and are currently drafting some material which should be helpful. I imagine this will go on our website once cleared.

There are no restrictions stopping trick or treating this Halloween but people need to be mindful of gathering rules and social distancing/personal hygiene.

I will let you know when the material is finalised.

Cheers

Kirsty

Ps there is a good article on Her Canberra which Vanessa/PICC provided input into which may help in the interim - HerCanberra article: <a href="https://hercanberra.com.au/city/boo-yah-how-to-have-a-covid-safe-halloween/">https://hercanberra.com.au/city/boo-yah-how-to-have-a-covid-safe-halloween/</a>

Kirsty Whybrow

**COVID-19 Event Exemptions** 

Ph: 02 5124 6142 | Email: kirsty.whybrow@act.gov.au | COVIDexemptions.events@act.gov.au

#### Office of the Chief Health Officer | ACT Health Directorate

Bowes St Woden | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land I live and work on and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. I respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Jarvis, Justin (Health) < Justin. Jarvis@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of COVID Exemptions

Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2020 3:05 PM

To: COVIDexemptions events < COVIDexemptions.events@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Plans re: Halloween?

**OFFICIAL** 

From: Keene, Toby (Health) < Toby. Keene@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of HECC Operations

Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2020 2:52 PM

To: COVID Exemptions < COVID.Exemptions@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Plans re: Halloween?

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi guys

Got this question from CDC. Not aware of any planning re Halloween. Are you thinking about this at all? Should we? I don't celebrate it so I'm no help.

Toby

Toby Keene | Director, Outbreak Preparedness & Response | COVID-19 Response

Ph: Email: toby.keene@act.gov.au | hecc.operations@act.gov.au

Public Health Emergency Coordination Centre | Health Emergency Control Centre | ACT Health Directorate Level 4, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

Note, I work rostered shifts. If your matter is urgent, please call (02) 5124 9225 for the duty operations team.



From: Polkinghorne, Ben (Health) <Ben.Polkinghorne@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2020 2:45 PM

To: HECC Operations < HECC. Operations@act.gov.au>

Cc: Kingsbury, Alison (Health) < Alison.Kingsbury@act.gov.au >

Subject: Plans re: Halloween?

## **OFFICIAL**

Hi COVID Team,

I filled in for Alison for today's JBT COVID-19 preparedness meeting and the rep from Shoalhaven mentioned they are putting together a plan for Halloween.

Have we got this under consideration? It is growing in popularity each year and this year it falls on a Saturday so if combined with good weather could be a big event.

Regards, Ben

Ben Polkinghorne A/g Surveillance Manager X46254 HerCanberra article: <a href="https://hercanberra.com.au/city/boo-yah-how-to-have-a-covid-safe-halloween/">https://hercanberra.com.au/city/boo-yah-how-to-have-a-covid-safe-halloween/</a>

#### Halloween messaging:

There are no restrictions stopping trick or treating this Halloween, but we would like to remind the community of the following:

- Keep up to date Public Health Directions for gatherings (gatherings can increase to 200 people, where one person per four square meters can be maintained indoor or one person per two square metres outdoors)
- Ensure hand hygiene products and suitable waste receptacles are available to allow for frequent cleaning and waste disposal;
- Physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres between people should be promoted.
- People should not attend if they are feeling unwell.

We're all used to our new physical distancing and personal hygiene regime, so let's keep it up for our own safety—and the safety of our family, friends, colleagues and the wider community.

Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door is a high risk activity so please keep the following in mind:

#### Trick or treaters:

- 1. Please take personal responsibility for your own—and your children's—safety
- 2. Don't go trick or treating if you are feeling unwell
- 3. Go trick or treating with people you know
- Remember physical distancing—keep at least 1.5 metres away from other trick or treating groups and from people who are not known to you
- 5. If a particular house looks busy, stay away or come back later
- 6. Remember your COVID hand and respiratory hygiene.
- 7. Sanitise your hands after touching door knockers ... or pumpkins ... or spiders and other creepy crawly Halloween decorations.

If you are giving out tricks or treats at your home:

- 1. Take personal responsibility for your own COVID safety
- Don't give treats if you are feeling unwell (leave a sign on the door asking people not to knock)
- Keep the handling of treats to a minimum and ensure that treats are individually wrapped.
- 4. Stay 1.5 metres away from the trick or treaters if they are not known to you
- 5. Remember your COVID hand and respiratory hygiene.

If people don't feel comfortable door knocking but still want to do Halloween with their kids, maybe look at alternatives. Perhaps a group of friends could get together and set up decorated stalls in a backyard so their kids could visit each stall to 'trick or treat'. Or maybe they could have an 'Easter egg hunt' style Halloween hunt for treats in a specific location (see below for some more ideas).

Despite the encouraging position of the ACT, we don't exist in a vacuum and the situation could change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions before Halloween. New Public Health Directions may need to be issued to restrict activities like trick or treating.

#### Lower risk activities

These lower risk activities can be safe alternatives:

- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- 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

### Moderate risk activities

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
  - If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least
     20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 1.5 metres apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 1.5 metres apart
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least 1.5 metres apart

## Pond, Aleks (Health)

From:

Johnston, Vanessa (Health)

Sent:

Monday, 12 October 2020 1:07 PM

To:

Harris, Miranda (Health)

Cc:

English, Karin (Health)

Subject: Attachments: RE: Plans re: Halloween? Halloween advice 1 - KE MH VJ edits.docx

**OFFICIAL** 

Thanks Karin and Miranda - I love it!

Juts made a few grammatical changes. Can go to Kirsty.

Regards, Vanessa

From: Harris, Miranda (Health) < Miranda. Harris@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 3:28 PM

To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) < Vanessa. Johnston@act.gov.au>

Cc: English, Karin (Health) < Karin. English@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Plans re: Halloween?

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi Vanessa,

Karin has had a good look at this and made a number of changes including adding in some creative at-home Halloween games! Thanks Karin!

I've added in a few minor edits.

Miranda

Dr Miranda Harris | Public Health Registrar | COVID-19 Response Team

Ph: (02) 5124 9211 | Email: miranda.harris@act.gov.au

Health Protection Service | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

Building 2, Bowes St, Phillip ACT 2606 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au

From: English, Karin (Health) < Karin. English@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 1:37 PM

To: Harris, Miranda (Health) < Miranda. Harris@act.gov.au >

Subject: RE: Plans re: Halloween?

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi Miranda

Sorry I got a bit too into it being American and all.

I got rid of the different level of risk rating because I didn't think it was so relevant to ACT. I just think it is good to say: this is what you need to do if you are going to trick and treat, but consider doing all these other things instead.

Regards Karin

From: Harris, Miranda (Health) < Miranda. Harris@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 10:43 AM

To: English, Karin (Health) < Karin. English@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Plans re: Halloween?

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi Karin,

Can you please have a look today at this advice that Kirsty has drafted and provide feedback on it to me?

Miranda

Dr Miranda Harris | Public Health Registrar | COVID-19 Response Team

Ph: (02) 5124 9211 | Email: miranda.harris@act.gov.au

Health Protection Service | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

Building 2, Bowes St, Phillip ACT 2606 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au

From: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) < Vanessa Johnston@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 10:1 AM

To: Harris, Miranda (Health) < Miranda Harris@ast.gov.au > Cc: Whybrow, Kirsty (Health) < Kitsty. Whybrow@act.gov.au >

Subject: FW: Plans re: Halloween?

**OFFICIAL** 

HI Miranda,

Can you please delegate to one of the team today to review?

Thanks, Vanessa

From: Whybrow, Kirsty (Health) < Kirsty. Whybrow@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of COVIDexemptions events

Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2020 6:30 PM

To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) < <u>Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au</u>>
Cc: Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) < <u>Vanessa.DalMolin@act.gov.au</u>>

Subject: FW: Plans re: Halloween?

**OFFICIAL** 

Dear Vanessa

We are getting a few requests through the Events Exemptions process for Halloween events (the suburban ones where entire suburbs get involved).

Would you be able to have one of your team review the attached please? I have pulled it together from CDC (<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween</a>) and other advice (such as wording approved by Vanessa DM and PICC for a HerCanberra article). We'd propose to put this on our website and direct applicants to it.

Thank you Kirsty

Kirsty Whybrow

**COVID-19 Event Exemptions** 

Ph: 02 5124 6142 | Email: kirsty.whybrow@act.gov.au | COVIDexemptions.events@act.gov.au

Office of the Chief Health Officer | ACT Health Directorate

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health.act.gov.au



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From: Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) < Vanessa. Dal Molin@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2020 11:07 AM

To: COVIDexemptions events < COVIDexemptions.events@act.gov.au >; Jarvis, Justin (Health)

<<u>Justin.Jarvis@act.gov.au</u>>

Cc: Keene, Toby (Health) < Toby. Keene@act.gov.au >

**Subject:** RE: Plans re: Halloween?

#### **OFFICIAL**

Thanks Kirsty – great advice on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US) on Holiday celebrations, including Halloween. We could borrow from here:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween

Thanks

Vanessa

From: Whybrow, Kirsty (Health) < Kirsty. Whybrow@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of COVIDexemptions events

Sent: Thursday, 8 October 2020 9:35 AM

To: Jarvis, Justin (Health) < Justin.Jarvis@act.gov.au >

Cc: Keene, Toby (Health) < Toby.Keene@act.gov.au >; Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) < Vanessa.DalMolin@act.gov.au >

Subject: RE: Plans re: Halloween?

## **OFFICIAL**

Hi there

We have received a few events exemption requests for Halloween community events and are currently drafting some material which should be helpful. I imagine this will go on our website once cleared.

There are no restrictions stopping trick or treating this Halloween but people need to be mindful of gathering rules and social distancing/personal hygiene.

I will let you know when the material is finalised.

Cheers

Kirsty

Ps there is a good article on Her Canberra which Vanessa/PICC provided input into which may help in the interim - HerCanberra article: <a href="https://hercanberra.com.au/city/boo-yah-how-to-have-a-covid-safe-halloween/">https://hercanberra.com.au/city/boo-yah-how-to-have-a-covid-safe-halloween/</a>

Kirsty Whybrow

**COVID-19 Event Exemptions** 

Ph: 02 5124 6142 | Email: kirsty.whybrow@act.gov.au | COVIDexemptions.events@act.gov.au

Office of the Chief Health Officer | ACT Health Directorate Bowes St Woden | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



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From: Jarvis, Justin (Health) < Justin.Jarvis@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of COVID Exemptions

Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2020 3:05 PM

To: COVIDexemptions events < COVIDexemptions.events@act.gov.au >

Subject: FW: Plans re: Halloween?

**OFFICIAL** 

From: Keene, Toby (Health) < Toby. Keene@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of HECC Operations

Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2020 2:52 PM

To: COVID Exemptions < COVID. Exemptions@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Plans re: Halloween?

OFFICIAL

Hi guys

Got this question from CDC. Not aware of any planning re Halloween. Are you thinking about this at all? Should we? I don't celebrate it so I'm no help.

Toby

Toby Keene | Director, Outbreak Preparedness & Response | COVID-19 Response

Ph: Email: toby.keene@act.gov.au | hecc.operations@act.gov.au

Public Health Emergency Coordination Centre | Health Emergency Control Centre | ACT Health Directorate

Level 4, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

Note, I work rostered shifts. If your matter is urgent, please call (02) 5124 9225 for the duty operations team.



From: Polkinghorne, Ben (Health) < Ben.Polkinghorne@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2020 2:45 PM

To: HECC Operations < HECC. Operations@act.gov.au >

Cc: Kingsbury, Alison (Health) < Alison.Kingsbury@act.gov.au>

Subject: Plans re: Halloween?

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi COVID Team,

I filled in for Alison for today's JBT COVID-19 preparedness meeting and the rep from Shoalhaven mentioned they are putting together a plan for Halloween.

Have we got this under consideration? It is growing in popularity each year and this year it falls on a Saturday so if combined with good weather could be a big event.

Regards, Ben

Ben Polkinghorne A/g Surveillance Manager X46254 HerCanberra article: <a href="https://hercanberra.com.au/city/boo-yah-how-to-have-a-covid-safe-halloween/">https://hercanberra.com.au/city/boo-yah-how-to-have-a-covid-safe-halloween/</a>

#### Halloween messaging:

There are no restrictions stopping trick or treating this Halloween, but we would like to remind the community of the following:

- Keep up to date <u>with Public Health Directions</u> for gatherings (<u>currently</u>, gatherings can <u>include increaseup</u> to 200 people, where one person per four square meters can be maintained indoor or one person per two square metres outdoors)
- Ensure hand hygiene products and suitable waste receptacles are available to allow for frequent cleaning and waste disposal;
- · Physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres between people should be promoted.
- · People should not attend if they are feeling unwell.

We're all used to our new physical distancing and personal hygiene regime, so let's keep it up for our own safety—and the safety of our family, friends, colleagues and the wider community.

Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door is a-can be a higher risk COVID-19 activity because you may be visiting a large number of people you don't know and will be picking up items that somebody else has handled, so please keep the following in mind:

#### Trick or treaters:

- 1. Please take personal responsibility for your own—and your children's—safety.
- 2. Don't go trick or treating if you are feeling unwell.
- 3. Go trick or treating with people you know.
- Remember physical distancing—keep at least 1.5 metres away from other trick or treating groups and from people who are not known to you.
- 5. If a particular house looks busy, stay away or come back later.
- Remember your COVID-19 hand and respiratory hygiene carry a small container of hand sanitiser with you.
- Sanitise your hands after touching door knockers ... or pumpkins ... or spiders and other creepy crawly Halloween decorations.
- 7-8. Consider setting a limit on the number of houses you visit or arranging with a small group of friends to visit just amongst yourselves.

If you are giving out tricks or treats at your home:

- 1. Take personal responsibility for your own COVID-19 safety.
- Prepare goodie bags (wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before preparing the bags) or buy treats that are individually wrapped and place them so that families can collect them at a distance.

1.

- 2-3. Don't give treats if you are feeling unwell (leave a sign on the door asking people not to knock).
- 3.4. Keep the handling of treats to a minimum and ensure that treats are individually-wrapped.
- 4:5. Stay 1.5 metres away from the trick or treaters, if they are not known to you
- Remember your COVID-19 hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Clean frequently touched items (like handrails, doorbell or your door knocker) regularly with a general-household cleaning spray (e.g. Spray n Wipe).

If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.

5-

If people don't feel comfortable door knocking but still want to do Halloween with their kids, maybe There are also a lot of look at alternatives to trick or treating. Perhaps you could get together with a group of friends could-get together and set up decorated stalls in a backyard so their the kids could-can visit each stall to 'trick or treat'. Or maybe they you could have an 'Easter egg hunt' style Halloween hunt for treats in a specific location (see below for some more ideas).

Despite the encouraging position of the ACT, we don't exist in a vacuum and the situation could change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions before Halloween. New Public Health-Directions may need to be issued to restrict activities like trick or treating.

Lower risk activities Alternative Activities to Trick or Treating
These lower risk-activities can be safe, very fun and cheap alternatives:

- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space with your kids to turn it into a haunted house. For example, make cobwebs out of cotton balls and hair spray or string and pipe cleaners and make spiders out of empty egg containers, eyes and pipe cleaners from the craft store.
- Playing games with your kids like bobbing for apples (in individual containers), a virtual
   Halloween costume contest, pumpkin carving competitions, or thea blindfold guessing game
   where you fill bowls with "scary" items from the pantry like boiled eggs, cooked spaghetti in
   oil, or jelly with canned fruit pieces in it and ask them to guess what they're feeling with
   their eyes closed.
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children the kids are given lists of Halloweenthemed 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.

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Moderate risk-activities

- Participating in one-way-trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined
  up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway-or
  at the edge of a yard)
- If you are preparing goodie-bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least-20 second before and after preparing the bags.

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 Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 1.5 metres apart

Attending a small costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 1.5 metres apart.
 Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at

Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least 1.5 metres apart,

Despite the encouraging position of the ACT, we don't exist in a vacuum and the situation could change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions before Halloween. Depending on the situation, new Public Health Directions may need to be issued to restrict activities like trick or treating leading up to the date.

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## Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Hare, Merryn (Health)

Sent: Monday, 12 October 2020 3:28 PM

To: COVID-19 Media

Cc: Pulli, Tracey (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Coleman, Kerryn

(Health)

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: media enquiry - News Corp Australia

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi Gareth,

This content has been approved by the Chief Health Officer.

Let me know if you need a hard copy.

Kind regards,

Merryn

Merryn Hare | Senior Manager

Ph: Email: Merryn.Hare@act.gov.au

Please note I do not work on Fridays

Health Systems, Policy and Research | ACT Health Directorate

Level 3, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au





We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 12 October 2020 2:54 PM

To: Hare, Merryn (Health) < Merryn. Hare@act.gov.au>

Cc: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media <COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>; ACT Health

Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health)

<Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: FOR RESPONSE: media enquiry - News Corp Australia

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi Merryn,

News Corp Australia's national reporting team has asked the below question for a story they are working on. I've provided a response below. For your clearance please. It's very similar to what you just showed me and I also condensed the 'trick or treaters' and 'house giving out treats' lists into one list:

#### Enquiry

I'm reaching out from News Corp Australia's national reporting team regarding a story I'm currently working on.

I was just wondering if you could advise if the ACT's Department of Health has any guidelines around children and families wanting to go trick or treating this Halloween, given we're in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Response

There are no restrictions stopping trick or treating this Halloween, but we would like to remind the community to be COVID-safe

We are all used to the ongoing physical distancing and personal hygiene public health advice, so let's continue this for the safety of our families, friends, colleagues and the wider community.

If you choose to participate in trick or treating this year:

- Please take personal responsibility for your own—and your children's—safety
- Don't go trick or treating if you are feeling unwell
- Go trick or treating with people you know
- If a particular house looks busy, move onto the next house or come back later
- Remember physical distancing—keep at least 1.5 metres away from other trick or treating groups and from people who are not known to you
- Remember your COVID hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Sanitise your hands after touching door knockers or other high-touch surfaces
- Keep the handling of treats to a minimum and consider individually wrapped treat bags or tongs to hand out treats.

For those who don't feel comfortable being door knocked, if your neighbourhood doesn't already have a system for letting trick or treaters know if you want to be part of Halloween, please put a friendly notice on your front door asking trick or treaters not to knock.

For people don't feel comfortable door knocking but still want to participate in Halloween with their children, you can look at alternative activities:

- You could gather a group of friends together and set up decorated stalls in a backyard so children can visit each stall to 'trick or treat'.
- Plan an 'Easter egg-style' Halloween hunt for treats in a specific location.

Despite the encouraging position of the ACT, the situation could change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions before Halloween. If so, new-public health advice may restrict gatherings of people and therefore affect trick or treating.

#### **Gareth Williams**

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

E: covid-19media@act.gov.au Media line: 0435 258 508

ACT Health Directorate - Level 2, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From: Dunne Breen, Michelle (Health) < Michelle. Dunne Breen@act.gov.au > On Behalf Of Health Media

Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 4:36 PM

To: COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au >

# Pond, Aleks (Health)

From:

Johnston, Vanessa (Health)

Sent:

Tuesday, 27 October 2020 3:14 PM

To: Cc:

Williams, Gareth; English, Karin (Health) Harris, Miranda (Health); COVID-19 Media

Subject:

RE: Radio

#### **OFFICIAL**

Thanks Gareth and team,

While I agree with the intent of the highlighted sections around a 'small group of friends/family' approve them, the current Directions do actually allow for up to 200 people, where one person per four square metres can be maintained in indoor spaces and one person per two square metres for outdoor spaces.

Regards, Vanessa

From: Williams, Gareth < Gareth. Williams@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 October 2020 2:28 PM

To: English, Karin (Health) < Karin. English@act.gov.au>; Johnston, Vanessa (Health) < Vanessa. Johnston@act.gov.au>

Cc: Harris, Miranda (Health) < Miranda. Harris@act.gov.au>; COVID-19 Media < COVID-19 Media@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Radio

#### **OFFICIAL**

Hi Karin,

Please find attached some talking points for the Halloween chat with ABC Drive today.

The trick or treating stuff has all been preapproved by Kerryn and used in media multiple times. I also added in some of the alternative activities you had drafted that people can partake in. The only thing I wasn't sure about was when this was originally drafted, the previous messaging about the Halloween movie night, costume parade etc was about only doing it with your household or staying 1.5m apart from others. Noting that our messaging recently has been moving more towards staying 1.5m apart from people or groups you don't know, I have tweaked a couple of these a little.

Vanessa - while Miranda and I agreed on the language tweaks and they seem fine to us, we would feel more confident if you would be able to review as well? I have highlighted in yellow.

Kind Regards

**Gareth Williams** 

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

E: covid-19media@act.gov.au Media line: 0435 258 508

ACT Health Directorate - Level 2, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From: English, Karin (Health) < Karin. English@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 October 2020 1:53 PM

To: Williams, Gareth < Gareth. Williams@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Radio

**OFFICIAL** 

Perfect

From: Williams, Gareth < Gareth. Williams@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 October 2020 1:53 PM

To: English, Karin (Health) < Karin. English@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Radio

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi Karin, how does 3:00pm sound?

**Gareth Williams** 

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

E: <u>covid-19media@act.gov.au</u> Media line: 0435 258 508

ACT Health Directorate - Level 2, 4 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

From: English, Karin (Health) < Karin. English@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 October 2020 1:48 PM

To: Williams, Gareth < Gareth. Williams@act.gov.au >

Subject: Radio

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi Gareth

What time did you want to meet? I'll just be on level 4 down the end at the big conference table.

Karin English | Public Health Registrar

Ph: (02) 5124 9243 | Email: karin.english@act.gov.au

Health Protection Service | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

2-6 Bowes St. Woden [ ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

# Halloween Messaging

# General COVID Safe behaviours for all situations

- Keep 1.5 metres apart from people or groups you don't know
- Continue good hand and respiratory hygiene
- Stay home if you are unwell, and
- Get tested if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

# Having a COVID Safe Halloween

There are no restrictions stopping trick or treating this Halloween, but we would like to remind the community to be COVID-safe.

We are all used to the ongoing physical distancing and personal hygiene public health advice, so let's continue this for the safety of our families, friends, colleagues and the wider community.

# **Trick or Treating**

If you choose to participate in trick or treating this year:

- Please take personal responsibility for your own—and your children's—safety.
- Don't go trick or treating if you are feeling unwell.
- Go trick or treating with people you know.
- If a particular house looks busy, move onto the next house or come back later.
- Remember physical distancing—keep at least 1.5 metres away from other trick or treating groups and from people who are not known to you.
- Remember your COVID hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Sanitise your hands after touching door knockers or other high-touch surfaces.
- Keep the handling of treats to a minimum and consider individually wrapped treat bags or tongs to hand out treats.

For those who don't feel comfortable being door knocked, if your neighbourhood doesn't already have a system for letting trick or treaters know if you want to be part of Halloween, please put a friendly notice on your front door asking trick or treaters not to knock.

# **Alternatives to Trick or Treating**

For people don't feel comfortable door knocking but still want to participate in Halloween with their children, you can look at alternative activities:

- You could gather a small group of friends together and set up decorated stalls in a backyard so children can visit each stall to 'trick or treat'.
- Plan an 'Easter egg-style' Halloween hunt for treats in a specific location.
- Decorating your house, apartment or living space and turn it into haunted house cobwebs out of cotton balls, hair spray, string, make spiders out of egg containers and pipe cleaners
- Doing a visual scavenger hunt where you and your kids have a list and look for Halloweenthemed things at decorated houses, at a distance.
- Having a Halloween-themed movie night with a small group of close friends or family

- Having a costume parade/competition in your backyard with a small group of close friends or family.
- Playing games or other activities with your children such as pumpkin carving or touching scary things in a bowl like cold spaghetti, jelly etc while blindfolded, but in a COVID Safe way.
   This means thoroughly washing your hands before and after or each person using their own containers.

Despite the encouraging position of the ACT, the situation could change quickly, both in the ACT and in our neighbouring jurisdictions before Halloween. If so, new public health advice may restrict gatherings of people and therefore affect trick or treating.

Cc: Health Media < HealthMedia@act.gov.au > Subject: FOR RESPONSE: media enquiry - News Corp Australia
OFFICIAL
Hello,
One for you – pls acknowledge receipt, and whether you think you will be able to meet her deadline (Monday COB)
Thanks,
Michelle
From: Sent: Friday, 9 October 2020 4:31 PM To: Canberra Health Services Media < CHSmedia@act.gov.au >; Health Media < HealthMedia@act.gov.au > Subject: media enquiry - News Corp Australia
CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.
Hi there
I'm reaching out from News Corp Australia's national reporting team regarding a story I'm currently working on.
I was just wondering if you could advise if the ACT's Department of Health has any guidelines around children and families wanting to go trick or treating this Halloween, given we're in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.
If you could please advise by no later than COB Monday 12 October that would be greatly appreciated.
Please let me know if you have any questions relating to this enquiry.
Thank you,
Senior Writer and Producer
40 City Rd Southgate VIC 3001

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# Pond, Aleks (Health)

From:

Coleman, Kerryn (Health)

Sent:

Wednesday, 28 October 2020 12:58 PM

To:

McConachie, Alex (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer

Cc:

COVID-19 Media; Pulli, Tracey (Health)

Subject:

RE: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 28 October 2020

**OFFICIAL** 

Thanks Alex – is there an additional who needed? In red Otherwise good to go

Kerryn

Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601

E Kerryn.coleman@act.gov.au W https://health.act.gov.au/

From: McConachie, Alex (Health) <Alex.McConachie@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2020 12:54 PM

To: Coleman, Kerryn (Health) < Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer < ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>

Cc: COVID-19 Media <COVID-19Media@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 28 October 2020

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi Kerryn,

Today's statement for your clearance below.

Thanks

#### Alex

Alex McConachie

Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

T: (02) 5124 9525 | E: <a href="mailto:covid-19media@act.gov.au">covid-19media@act.gov.au</a>
ACT Health Directorate – Level 2, 2 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au

From: Sloane, Jen (Health) < Jen.Sloane@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2020 12:48 PM

To: McConachie, Alex (Health) < Alex. McConachie@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 28 October 2020

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi Alex, Approved from this end. Cheers, Jen

From: English, Karin (Health) < Karin. English@act.gov. >

Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2020 10:33 AM

To: Sloane, Jen (Health) < Jen. Sloane@act.gov.au >

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 28 October 2020

**OFFICIAL** 

Yes, those were my talking points

From: Sloane, Jen (Health) < <u>Jen.Sloane@act.gov.au</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2020 10:24 AM

To: English, Karin (Health) < Karin.English@act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 28 October 2020

**OFFICIAL** 

Hey Karin,

Does the below follow the same messaging as you went with yesterday? Anything missing?

Cheers,

Jen

From: McConachie, Alex (Health) < Alex. McConachie@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 28 October 2020 10:04 AM

**To:** Sloane, Jen (Health) < <u>Jen.Sloane@act.gov.au</u>>; HECC Operations < <u>HECC.Operations@act.gov.au</u>> **Cc:** COVID-19 Media < <u>COVID-19Media@act.gov.au</u>>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) < <u>Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au</u>>

Subject: FOR APPROVAL: ACT COVID-19 Update - 28 October 2020

**OFFICIAL** 

Hi Jen,

Today's statement for approval please:



# ACT COVID-19 Update – 28 October 2020

## Confirmed cases update

There have been no new cases of COVID-19 recorded in the ACT in the past 24 hours, leaving the ACT's total at 114. There is one active case in the ACT.

A total of 110 cases have recovered from COVID-19 in the ACT.

There are **no** COVID-19 patients in Canberra hospitals.

The ACT has recorded three (3) deaths.

The number of negative tests recorded in the ACT is now 105,623.

#### Having a COVID Safe Halloween

There are no restrictions stopping trick or treating this Halloween, but we would like to remind the community to be COVID safe.

We are all used to the ongoing physical distancing and personal hygiene public health advice, so let's continue this for the safety of our families, friends, colleagues and the wider community.

## **Trick or Treating**

If you choose to participate in trick or treating this year:

- Please take personal responsibility for your own and your children's safety.
- Don't go trick or treating if you are feeling unwell.
- Go trick or treating with people you know.
- If a particular house looks busy, move onto the next house or come back later.
- Remember physical distancing keep at least 1.5 metres away from other trick or treating groups and from people who are not known to you.
- Remember your COVID hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Sanitise your hands after touching door knockers or other high-touch surfaces.
- Keep the handling of treats to a minimum and consider individually wrapped treat bags or tongs to hand out treats.

For those who don't feel comfortable being door knocked, if your neighbourhood doesn't already have a system for letting trick or treaters know if you want to be part of Halloween, please put a friendly notice on your front door asking trick or treaters not to knock.

## Alternatives to Trick or Treating

For people who don't feel comfortable door knocking but still want to participate in Halloween with their children, you can look at alternative activities:

- You could gather a small group of friends together and set up decorated stalls in a backyard so children can visit each stall to 'trick or treat'.
- Plan an 'Easter egg-style' Halloween hunt for treats in a specific location.
- Decorating your house, apartment or living space and turn it into haunted house cobwebs out of cotton balls, hair spray, string, make spiders out of egg containers and pipe cleaners
- Doing a visual scavenger hunt where you and your kids have a list and look for Halloween-themed things at decorated houses, at a distance.
- Having a Halloween-themed movie night with a small group of close friends or family
- Having a costume parade/competition in your backyard with a small group of close friends or family.
- Playing games or other activities with your children such as pumpkin carving or touching scary things in a bowl like cold spagnetti, jelly etc while blindfolded, but in a
  COVID Safe way. This means thoroughly washing your hands before and after or each person using their own containers.

## General information

It is everyone's responsibility to follow the health advice and do what we can to ensure we keep ourselves and the community safe. We ask Canberrans to:

- o Keep 1.5 metres apart from people or groups you don't know
- o Continue good hand and respiratory hygiene
- o Stay home if you are unwell, and
- o Get tested if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

The ACT Government has a dedicated COVID-19 website for all information about the health and economic response to the pandemic in the ACT. For further information visit <a href="https://www.covid19.act.gov.au">www.covid19.act.gov.au</a>.

The ACT Government also has a helpline to assist Canberrans through the challenges of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Helpline is (02) 6207 7244 and is available between 8am and 8pm daily.

#### Statement ends

Media contact:

COVID-19 media M 0435 258 508 E COVID-19 med

E COVID-19media@act.gov.au

# ACT Government | Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

13 22 81



www.covid19.act.gov.au

Thanks

Alex

health.act.gov.au

Alex McConachie Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response) T: (02) 5124 9525 | E: covid-19media@act.gov.au ACT Health Directorate - Level 2, 2 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

# Pond, Aleks (Health)

From:

COVID-19 Media

Sent: Subject: Wednesday, 28 October 2020 1:42 PM ACT COVID-19 Update - 28 October 2020

**OFFICIAL** 



# ACT COVID-19 Update – 28 October 2020

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For those who don't feel comfortable being door knocked, if your neighbourhood doesn't already have a system for letting trick or treaters know if you want to be part of Halloween, please put a friendly notice on your front door asking trick or treaters not to knock.

# Alternatives to Trick or Treating

For people who don't feel comfortable door knocking but still want to participate in Halloween with their family or friends, you can consider alternative activities:

- Gather a small group of friends together and set up decorated stalls in a backyard so children can visit each stall to 'trick or treat'.
- Plan an 'Easter egg-style' Halloween hunt for treats in a specific location.
- Decorate your house, apartment or living space to turn it into a haunted house cobwebs out of cotton balls, hair spray and string, and make spiders out of egg containers and pipe cleaners.
- Organise a visual scavenger hunt with a list of Halloween-themed items to spot at decorated houses, at a distance.
- Host a Halloween-themed movie night with a small group of close friends or family
- Host a costume parade/competition in your backyard with a small group of close friends or family.
- Play games or organise other activities such as pumpkin carving or touching mystery objects in a container, like cold spaghetti and jelly, while blindfolded and in a COVID Safe way. This means thoroughly washing your hands before and after participating or each person using their own separate containers.

## General information

It is everyone's responsibility to follow the health advice and do what we can to ensure we keep ourselves and the community safe. We ask Canberrans to:

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#### Statement ends

Media contact:

COVID-19 media

M 0435 258 508

E COVID-19media@act.gov.au

ACT Government | Public Information Coordination Centre (COVID-19 response)

13 22 81

www.covid19.act.gov.au