

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

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TRICK-OR-TREATING HOURS ANNOUNCED FOR THE COMMUNITY
Including Springfield, Grandview, Jerome, Leland Grove, and Southern View

Springfield, Illinois – The City of **Springfield along with the Villages of Grandview, Jerome, Leland Grove, and Southern View** have announced Halloween trick-or-treating hours. Trick-or-treating will be from **4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2020.**

As a reminder, it is **optional** for individuals to welcome trick-or-treaters to their residences. Residents who wish to greet trick-or-treaters may do so by turning on their porch lights. Homes without their porch lights on should **NOT** be visited.

It is strongly encouraged that anyone who would like to distribute treats should **leave individually wrapped candy on a table on their front walkways, sidewalks, or any outdoor space** that allows for at least six-feet of social distance from the door. The individually wrapped candy should be spread out so each piece is not touching another. **Anyone distributing candy or treats should wash their hands properly for at least 20 seconds before placing the candy on the table and when replenishing.**

We understand Halloween is a holiday many individuals enjoy, especially children. However, we ask that everyone please be mindful that **the virus is still present in our community** and proper precautions need to be taken. These precautions do not only impact your family. **It impacts the safety of your neighbors, neighborhood, and local businesses.**

The State of Illinois has provided additional guidance for those planning on trick-or-treating.

- All individuals participating in trick-or-treating, including those passing out candy, should maintain social distance of at least six-feet and wear proper face coverings. A costume mask, such as those worn for Halloween, is not a substitute for a face covering. If face coverings are worn under costume masks, please ensure this does not create breathing problems, and if so, discard the costume mask.
- Only household members should trick-or-treat together, and they should maintain six-foot social distance from other trick-or-treaters at all times. Mixed household trick-or-treaters are discouraged.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be carried and used frequently.

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- Candy collected during trick-or-treating should not be consumed until after proper handwashing. As always, a parent/guardian should check all candy to make sure it is wrapped and should discard unwrapped candy.

BUSINESSES

Businesses who wish to greet trick-or-treaters are asked to follow the same guidelines as those outlined for homes. As a reminder, guidelines for Phase 4 business operations including social distancing, capacity, and mask requirements are still in effect.

To review the State of Illinois' Halloween guidelines, please visit www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/halloween-guidance

SPRINGFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT REMIND FAMILIES SAFETY FIRST THIS HALLOWEEN

In addition to the health precautions outlined for trick-or-treating, the Springfield Fire Department would like to remind families to be safe from other dangers this Halloween.

- Use a battery-operated candle or glow stick in jack-o-lanterns.
- When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric.
- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Teach children to stay away from open flames, including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms are working.

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