

Halloween, Samhain, & Dia De Los Muertos Protocol

Halloween and Samhain are celebrated on October 31st.

El Dia De Los Muertos is celebrated on November 1st.

Follow these directions to safely celebrate these cultural and religious holidays.

What is different this year for Halloween, Samhain, and Dia De Los Muertos?

- The CDC has recommended that traditional trick-or-treating and parties be avoided this year.
- The CDC recommends avoiding large gatherings at grave sites for Dia De Los Muertos.

Who should take part in a Halloween, Samhain, or Dia De Los Muertos celebration?

- Only residents from the home and staff working in this home may attend *in person*.
- No family members or friends of the residents or staff are permitted to attend *in person*.
- Anyone can gather and celebrate virtually through Skype, Zoom, Go-To-Meeting, FaceTime, Google Duo, or Facebook Messenger! There are more virtual options for fun family and friend gatherings.

What safe and creative celebration activities can we do on Halloween?

- Drive-thru Trick-or-Treat
 - Where: Robinson Street, Malvern Community Participation program location [back parking lot only], and Cedar Ave office
 - When: **12pm-4pm 10/30**
 - How to sign up: Sign up for a time slot to make sure there are enough goodie bags (including specialty allergy needs) for everyone by 5pm on 10/29/2020 at the Eventbrite page. Please let folks know upon reservation if any of your individuals need specialty goodie bags. **Go to this link:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/126083462029>
 - A costume contest will be held at each location, please encourage those you support to come festive!
 - Who at site: 2-6 volunteers at each location with shifts only lasting 2 hours; facility supervisors were identified as possible participants
 - Who-attendees: Drive-thru only with everyone not volunteering to stay in the car. One home in each car only for safety. Anyone going to roll down the window and get a direct goodie bag delivery should be wearing a mask.
 - Process: Goodie bags will be handed out with one bag per person. A candy chute, slide, or other distanced drop through the window device will be used. The chute, slide, pipe, or object used will be wiped off after each car. While there will only be 1 station at each site, the goodie bags will have enough treats to avoid tricks!
 - Each participant is encouraged to wear a costume in the vehicle, decorate the house vehicle being used, and staff are encouraged to participate. Please remember that a COVID19 approved mask must be used even if the individual is wearing a Halloween mask.
 - Each site volunteer is encouraged to dress up, decorate the site with gourds, ghouls, or ghosts, and also feel free to pick a theme to decorate their cars.
- Happiness Delivery Halloween Edition
 - What: Goodie bags dropped at door

- Where: Bags are delivered to the homes
- How: By reservation for individuals/homes; please contact Gina.cincotta@kencrest.org
- Why: Individuals do not want to go out or cannot safely go out without a mask
- Who: Volunteers are already in rotation and any individuals can request a Halloween Happiness Delivery.
- When: Deliveries should be requested as soon as possible and can't be guaranteed after 10/27/2020 for Halloween delivery. Deliveries can be made from now until Halloween.
- In house Halloween Party Ideas:
 - Watch a scary movie (If you are interested in watching a movie remotely with others, let your staff know and they can contact Autumn)
 - Indoor scavenger hunt: candy, etc.
 - Scary music dance party
 - Virtual visit Halloween Party and costume contest amongst homes interested. Please make sure your individuals have a photo release prior to participating in this contest.
 - Personal apple on a string (no dysphagia)
 - Carve or paint a pumpkin
 - Try a seasonal recipe: bake pies, bake cinnamon apples, etc.
- Handing out candy during Trick-or-Treat times
 - If your neighborhood is participating in trick-or-treating & individuals desire to participate safely, then these alternatives must be used.
 - First create a barrier of more than 6 feet between where the residents will stand/sit and where the kids will be for candy. This can be done by purchasing "do not cross" caution tape, glow in the dark tape or ribbon, using a decorated table, or creating another impassable barrier.
 - Next, the home needs to purchase or build a candy chute, slide, or other long distance drop off device. It is NOT recommended to throw the candy as it may hit a small child or animal. Please view the video on YouTube for a tutorial on how to make an inexpensive candy chute out of water bottles at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?edufilter=NULL&feature=youtu.be&v=f0E10FiADec>
 - Decorate the house as part of the celebration process and remember to wear costumes!
- Boo your friends and neighbors
 - If you want to hand out treats but do not want to participate in the trick-or-treating process, try making a Halloween Boo Bag! Details on attachment!
- Safe Outdoor Activities (must wear a mask)
 - Head out to a local farm to pick apples or pumpkins
 - Take a garden tour
 - Try Longwood Gardens, Winterthur, or Brandywine

What safe and creative celebration activities can we do for Samhain?

- Nature walk or scavenger hunt
- Pumpkin carving or painting
- Do a tarot card reading or read tea leaves
- Do a cemetery visit and leave a small gift for those who have passed (apple, sweet treat)
- Bury an apple outside in the yard for the spirits

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS: PLEASE CONTACT DR. AUTUMN DAE MILLER AT 610-772-1207

- Make an altar: use electronic candles for fire safety
- Make a harvest-friendly traditional meal

What safe and creative celebration activities can we do for El Dia De Los Muertos?

- Get creative with face painting and try to make a colorful sugar skull pattern
- Watch fun movies like Coco or Frida Kahlo
- Visit the grave of a loved one
- Do a virtual visit with family to celebrate ancestors
- Make an altar. Use electronic candles for safety. Add pictures of lost loved ones and small objects of remembrance.
- Make a traditional meal. Make a call home to family to ask about beloved recipes, gather ingredients, etc.