

Chair & County Health Officer,

Dr. Charles Stringham

Board Members,

Ken Tipton, County Commission Chair

Marlene Brissenden, County Commissioner

Jim French, County Commissioner

Ron Cerri, County Commissioner

Mike Bell, County Commissioner

Mike Allen, Humboldt County Sheriff

## Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse  
50 West Fifth Street Room 205  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445



October 19, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nicole Maher, PIO  
Humboldt County Health Board  
Phone: (775) 761-2624  
Email: nicole@winnemucca.net

### **MAYOR GREEN LIGHTS HALLOWEEN, URGES CAUTION IN WAKE OF COVID-19**

WINNEMUCCA, Nev—Celebrating Halloween is a favorite Humboldt County tradition, but local officials are urging caution in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As a community, we have always enjoyed Halloween as families, friends and neighbors,” said Winnemucca Mayor Rich Stone, “but in the midst of the pandemic, we need to do everything we can to minimize the risk of catching or spreading the virus.”

Mayor Stone said the city and the county are recommending recently released directives from the State of Nevada to minimize interactions, keep gatherings small, and spend as much time outdoors to allow for social distancing and better ventilation.

The mayor has declared that community trick-or-treating will take place in Winnemucca from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, October 31. The Humboldt County Chamber of Commerce’s annual business trick-or-treating event will kick off the fun from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., also on Halloween.

In addition, the mayor acknowledged that various organizations will host trunk or treat events or other festivities that have the potential to draw crowds.

Whatever the event, the mayor said he is asking residents to keep interactions to a minimum.

“In general, the more people you interact with, the more closely you interact with them, and the longer that interaction, the higher your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19,” he said.

Mayor Stone said he and other officials acknowledge that trick-or-treating is a personal choice made by parents for their children. “We are not advocating for or against Halloween events, only that if parents choose to participate, it should be done with the right precautions,” he said.

All adults and children should wear protective masks at all times (not Halloween masks) and observe social distancing recommendations. All children should be accompanied by an adult.

The mayor also suggested that instead of traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating, home owners could place individually wrapped treats on an outside table or porch. Children should not be allowed to reach into a candy bowl.

Parents and children should practice good hand hygiene before and after trick-or-treating and, as always, trick or treat safely with flashlights, reflective materials or glow sticks, and obey all traffic laws.

As always, the Winnemucca Police Department will be out in full force to make sure residents have a safe and fun night.

The State of Nevada has released [recommendations and guidance](#) for celebrating Halloween, including general recommendations, activities by risk level, guidance for event planners, and information for those who feel sick or who believe they may have been exposed.

“We want to remind everyone that if they have recently tested positive for COVID-19, if they are currently awaiting the results of a test, if they or a household member are sick with the virus, or if they have been exposed to a confirmed or possible COVID case, they need to stay home and avoid contact with others.”

The mayor added, “We all need to play our part in lowering the risk of infection, not only for ourselves and our families, but for our community.”

Any questions regarding the upcoming Halloween holiday and COVID-19 may be directed to the City of Winnemucca at (775) 623-6333 or via email at [COVID19@humboldtcountynv.gov](mailto:COVID19@humboldtcountynv.gov).

###