

Halloween safety tips for kids with asthma

October 30 2014



Trick-or-treaters should bring quick-relief inhalers with them, experts advise.

(HealthDay)—Wearing masks made of latex and taking hayrides are among the Halloween festivities that could be risky for children with asthma, according to the American Lung Association.

The association advises parents to be proactive about managing their child's asthma to ensure that Halloween is safe and enjoyable.

Some of the steps they recommend parents take include:

- **Be prepared.** Hayrides and haunted houses are exciting adventures that can lead to asthma flare-ups. Make sure children carry their quick-relief inhaler with them at all times so they can use it at the first sign of worsening symptoms. Children who've had [breathing problems](#) on Halloween in the past may benefit

from medication before they go trick-or-treating, the experts noted in a news release. Talk to your child's doctor about options that could help.

- **Keep it clean.** Any costume that has been packed away for a while should be washed before a child with asthma wears it to prevent exposure to dust, mold and [dust mites](#) that can trigger [asthma symptoms](#).
- **Rethink the mask.** Latex is a known asthma trigger, but it's used to make many costume masks. Before buying a mask, check its label. Keep in mind that masks also make it more difficult to breathe normally. Cutting a mask in half or skipping one entirely may be the best option for [kids](#) with asthma.
- **Check the forecast.** The air quality on Halloween night can make a difference for kids with asthma. Wearing a scarf is also a good idea since cold air can trigger an asthma attack.
- **Be cautious.** Teach kids to not enter anyone's home while they are out trick-or-treating. Aside from being a common-sense safety precaution, this can also keep them healthy. The homes of strangers could have pets or cigarette smoke, which could trigger an [asthma attack](#). And, for kids with food allergies along with [asthma](#), be sure to check your little ones' candy haul for treats that could spell trouble.

More information: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides more [Halloween health and safety tips](#).

Copyright © 2014 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Halloween safety tips for kids with asthma (2014, October 30) retrieved 18 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-10-halloween-safety-kids-asthma.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.