



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Richard F. Cortez
County Judge

David L. Fuentes
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Precinct 4

**OFFICE OF
COUNTY JUDGE
RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

Public Affairs Division

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Hidalgo County Judge amends orders to prohibit door-to-door trick-or-treating and provides guidance for fall and winter holidays

EDINBURG – After consulting with local health experts and local mayors, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez on Wednesday signed amended safety orders that prohibits door-to-door Halloween activities, but provides for city-sanctioned drive-by celebrations such as trunk or treat. The amended orders by Judge Cortez also offer guidance, based on guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, for upcoming holidays such as Dia de los Muertos, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The amended order shall go into effect at one minute past midnight tonight, October 21, and shall remain in effect unless modified or rescinded.

“Public safety, particularly the safety of our children, was foremost in my mind as I signed these orders after consulting with local experts and elected officials,” Judge Cortez said. “I recognize that these are extraordinary safety measures, but I also am mindful that COVID-19 remains an active and deadly threat to our community. Many computer models are already predicting a rise in cases toward the end of the year. This order seeks to mitigate that rise.”

Judge Cortez thanked area mayors for their support of the amended orders and encouraged residents of Hidalgo County to be on the look-out for Halloween events sanctioned by their cities. The orders also offer suggestions for other alternatives to door-to-door Halloween celebrations, including:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- 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
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus



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- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

Beyond Halloween, the amended orders provide a set of low- to moderate-risk activities for other upcoming holidays that are generally some of the year's most popular events in the Rio Grande Valley for extended family to gather.

For Dia de los Muertos, this includes:

- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others
- Playing music in your home that your deceased loved ones enjoyed
- Making and decorating masks or making an altar for the deceased
- Setting out pillows and blankets in your home for the decease
- Joining a virtual get-together celebration

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, this includes:

- Having a small dinner with only people who live in your household
- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that does not involve contact with others
- Having a virtual dinner and sharing recipes with friends and family
- Shopping online rather than in person on the day after Thanksgiving or the following Monday
- Watching sporting events, parades, and movies from home

Please find the full amended order [at this link](#).

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