



"Your Local  
Health Department"

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Branch - Hillsdale - St. Joseph Community Health Agency**

570 N. Marshall Road  
Coldwater, MI 49036  
(517) 279-9561  
Fax (517) 278-2923

20 Care Drive  
Hillsdale, MI 49242  
(517) 437-7395  
Fax (517) 437-0166

1110 Hill Street  
Three Rivers, MI 49093  
(269) 273-2161  
Fax (269) 273-2452

[www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org)

**Rebecca Burns, Health Officer**  
**517-279-9561, ext. 0148#**

**Nana Amaniampong**  
**Health Promotion and Education Coordinator**  
**517-279-9561, ext. 0144#**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Halloween Safety Tips**

Fall celebrations like Halloween are fun times for children who dress up in costumes, enjoy parties and eat yummy treats. In the United States, the month of October ranks number 2 in motor vehicle deaths. In 2015, about 6,700 pedestrian deaths and 160,000 medically consulted injuries occurred among pedestrians in motor vehicle incidents. According to the National Safety Council, 17% of these deaths occurred when pedestrians improperly crossed roads or intersections. Lack of visibility because of low lighting or dark clothing accounted for 15% of the deaths. To ensure adults and children have a safe Halloween, here are some safety tips:

#### **Walk Safely**

- Cross the street at corners using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and continue looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths; if there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. All children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossing.

### **Trick or Treat with an Adult**

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, remind them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

### **Keep Costumes Both Creative and Safe**

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of mask, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them be seen by drivers.
- When selecting costumes, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

### **Drive Extra Safely on Halloween**

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 pm-9:30 pm so be especially alert for kids during those hours.

For more safety tips visit <https://www.safekids.org/tip/halloween-safety-tips>. Be sure to also like our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/bhsj/wic/](http://www.facebook.com/bhsj/wic/).