



**American
Red Cross**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 27, 2025

Contact: mediainquiry@acs.nyc.gov

**KEEP CHILDREN SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN: ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S
SERVICES AND AMERICAN RED CROSS SHARE IMPORTANT HALLOWEEN SAFETY
TIPS**

Ahead of Halloween, the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and the American Red Cross in Greater New York shared important tips to ensure New York City children have a safe (and fun) Halloween.

"Parents and caregivers can help make Halloween safe and fun for children by following a few safety tips, like making sure kids don't go trick-or-treating without an adult, looking both ways before crossing the street, and having an adult check their bags before they eat their treats," **said Commissioner Jess Dannhauser, Administration for Children's Services.** "ACS thanks the American Red Cross for teaming up to get this valuable message out."

"Halloween is a time of excitement and imagination for children across New York City, and we want to ensure it's also a safe one," said **Doreen Thomann Howe, CEO of the American Red Cross in Greater New York.** "Whether families are trick-or-treating, attending community events, or celebrating at home, simple precautions—like staying visible, traveling in groups, and checking treats—can make all the difference. We're proud to partner with NYC ACS to help families enjoy a fun and safe Halloween."

A full list of safety tips can be found below:

Pick Safe Costumes and Gear

- Wear light-colored clothing and flame-resistant costumes.

- Add reflective tape to costumes and pack a flashlight. That way kids are easier to see and can see better in the dark.
- Try on costumes ahead of trick-or-treating to ensure children can see properly through masks or headwear.

Never let children trick or treat alone.

- A parent or responsible caregiver should accompany young children.
- Plan the trick-or-treat route in advance. Walk only on the sidewalks, not in the street.

Walk on sidewalks and be careful in the street.

- Walk, don't run.
- Look both ways before crossing the street, and cross only at the corner and with the green light/walk sign.
- Don't cross between parked cars.
- Never walk through alleys or cut across yards.
- Only cross the street in designated crosswalks. Adults should use extra caution if driving. Trick-or-treaters are excited and may forget to look both ways before crossing.

Accept treats at the door – never go inside.

- Children shouldn't go inside a stranger's home. Adults should not invite children into their homes.
- It's not only vampires and monsters children have to look out for. Children and adults should be cautious around animals and pets.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.

Check children's candy and treats before eating.

- Make sure to remove loose candy, open packages and choking hazards.
- Discard any items with brand names with which you are not familiar.

Leave the pumpkin carving to adults.

- Small children should never carve pumpkins. Instead, let them draw a face with markers.
- Use a flashlight or glowstick to light the pumpkin instead of a candle.

Have Fun

- Happy Halloween!