

Town of Middlebury  
Emergency Management Bulletin  
October 6, 2020

**Drive-in COVID Testing At Porter This Week!**

Porter Hospital has added additional COVID-19 testing based on current demand as well as any potential community-based spread through Friday this week! Call 388-8850 to schedule a test and you do not need a referral or a provider order. This testing is open to all community members who desire asymptomatic testing

**What About Trick or Treating?**

The usual door-to-door trick or treating is still on, though discouraged by the CDC. If you decide to participate, only go to homes that are welcoming, such as those with 'welcome' lights on. Just understand how COVID is spread and take steps to prevent this. Things like open bowls of treats where multiple scary hands will handle candy should probably be avoided. Mouth and nose coverings should always be in place by all participants. Only commercially sealed treats should be handed out. Wear nitrile or similar type gloves when opening bags for dispersal and never handle individually packaged treats by hand. Wipe down all treat wrappers with disinfectant wipes prior to opening. We'll come out with some other means of keeping Halloween less COVID scary as we get closer.

**Trick or Treat Options!**

**SPOOKTACULAR: DRIVE-THRU TRICK OR TREATING- FROM THE BETTER MIDDLEBURY PARTNERSHIP:**

A safe way to enjoy Halloween this year!

Families will be able to drive up to the candy-drop station, which will be all decked out with volunteers, decorations and props to make it fun and exciting, grab pre-bagged candy through the car window and move along to the next stop.

Local organizations and businesses will be in charge of making each station really special, all with their own themes. Halloween night from 5 to 8 p.m. all throughout town. A list of stops and map will be available soon from the **Spooktacular web page:**

<https://experiencemiddlebury.com/annual-events/spooktacular/>

**A Note on Fire Pits**

As cool weather encroaches, we get questions about fire pits. We distinguish this from open burning. Open burning requires a permit and they won't be issued until November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the burning of yard refuse, brush, tree limbs on uncontained open ground. A backyard fire pit is a small, regulated fire in an enclosure, sufficient to contain the spread of fire. Usually within a stone or masonry enclosure, the base of the fire pit usually below ground level. Chiminea-type devices and commercial "fire pits" enclosed in a metal container with a lid and a spark-arresting screen are also included. Backyard fire pits are permissible and they must be reasonable in size, burning only clean wood, and not cause a problem for your neighbors. On a complaint from an adjoining neighbor, you may be asked to extinguish the fire.