



To Protect, Promote and Prioritize the Health of Our Entire  
Community

**For Immediate Release: 10/26/2020**

### **Make Sure to Party Safely**

The Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) knows it's important to de-stress, have fun, and maintain a sense of normalcy during a pandemic, but DCHD also wants to remind you to stay cautious of situations that help COVID-19 spread. Halloween means parties for many, but please don't assume you're safe because everyone is wearing a costume mask.

It's also important to remember that a costume mask is not a substitute for a protective cloth mask. The exceptions are masks made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that cover the nose and mouth without leaving gaps around your face. Do not wear a costume mask over a cloth mask as it can make breathing difficult. Try a Halloween-themed cloth mask instead.

On Monday, October 26, DCHD reported 160 new cases of COVID-19 that were received over the past day, ending at midnight. This makes 21,584 total cases in Douglas County since the outbreak began in March.

The Health Department received no new death certificates during the past day related to COVID-19. The number of deaths in the county connected to the pandemic remains at 221. DCHD has confirmed 14,933 county residents have recovered from the illness.

As of this morning, metro area hospitals had 365 medical and surgical beds available for a 75% occupancy rate with 65 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available for a 79% occupancy rate. There were 190 individuals hospitalized who have been diagnosed with COVID 19 and 28 more persons of interest (generally waiting for test results). Seventeen individuals who were confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 were on ventilators.

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