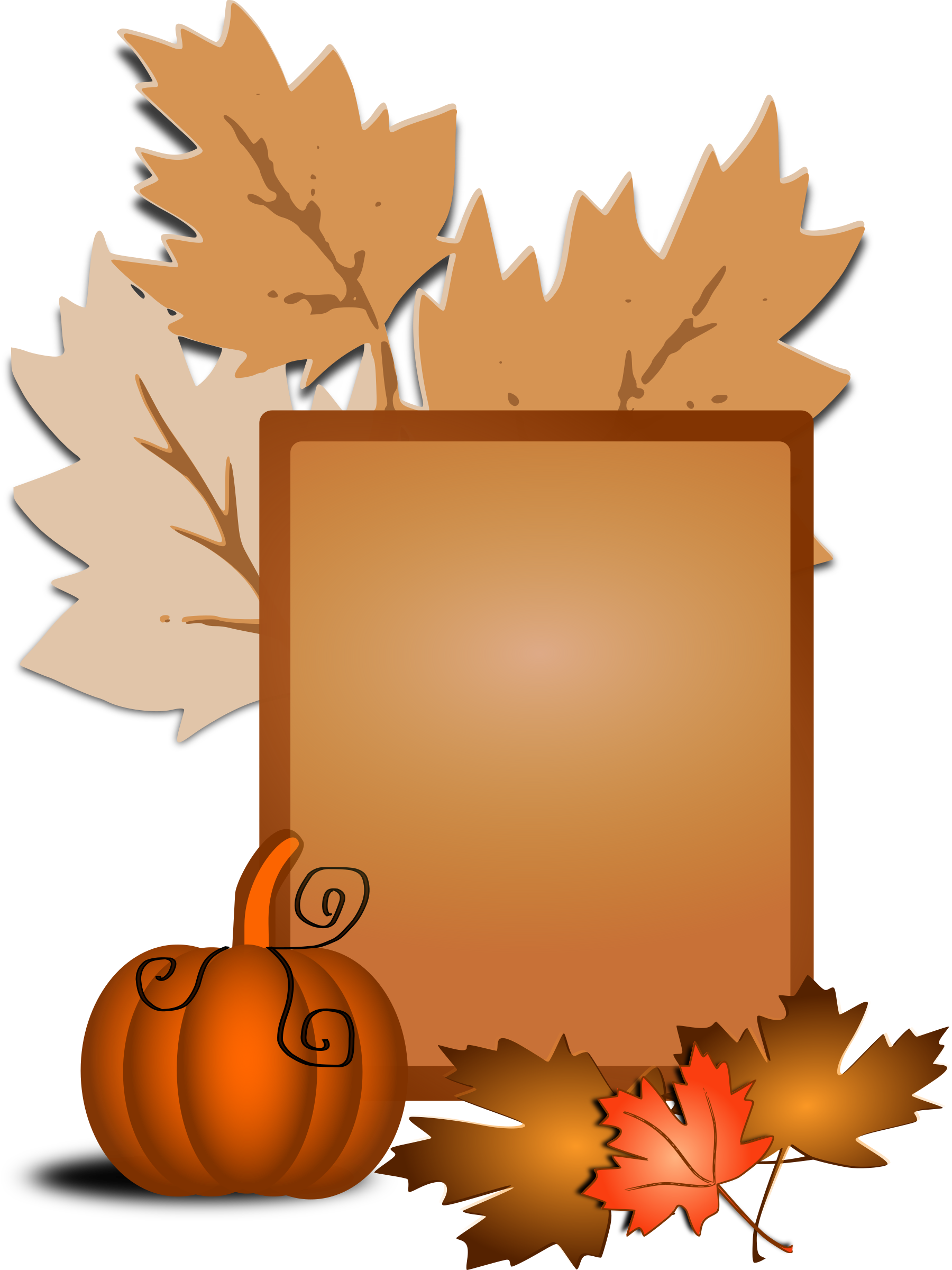
**Tips on Safer Halloween Celebrations**

**Tips on Safer Halloween Celebrations**



**Tips on Safer Thanksgiving Celebrations**

**Tips on Safely Planning/Hosting Fall and Winter Events**

As we begin to plan and hold events and gatherings, the CDC offers the following considerations for increasing protection of our families and communities and preventing spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The risk of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings increases as follows

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| Lowest Risk | Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings |
| Some Risk | Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come **from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).** |
| Higher Risk | Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and **with attendees coming from outside the local area.** |
| Highest Risk | Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area. |

If you decide to travel, follow these safety measures during your trip to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

* Wear a mask to keep your nose and mouth covered when in public places.
* Avoid close contact by staying at least 6 feet apart (about 2 arms’ length) from anyone who is not from your household.
* Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
* Avoid contact with anyone who is sick.
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

***Before you host***

* Check the community spread rate. Higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread in the gathering location, as well as where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees. If you are not sure how to find out the community spread in your area, check with HR.
* Host outdoor activities rather than indoor activities as much as possible. If hosting an outdoor event is not possible, and you choose to host an indoor event, avoid crowded, poorly ventilated, or fully enclosed indoor spaces.
* Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent that is safe and feasible based on the weather.
* Host activities with only people from your local area as much as possible.
* Consider the behaviors of attendees prior to the gathering. Gathering with attendees who are not adhering to social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart), mask wearing, hand washing, and other prevention behaviors pose more risk than gatherings with attendees who are engaging in these preventative behaviors
* Limit numbers of attendees and the duration of the gathering as much as possible. Gatherings that last longer pose more risk than shorter gatherings
* Provide or encourage attendees to bring supplies to help you and others stay healthy. For example, extra masks (do not share or swap with others), hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and tissues.
* If you are planning in-person holiday gatherings with people outside of your household, consider asking all guests to strictly avoid contact with people outside of their households for 14 days before the gathering.
* Make sure everyone washes their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before and after preparing, serving, and eating food. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
* Wear a mask while preparing or serving food to others who do not live in your household.
* Use single-use options or identify one person to serve sharable items, like salad dressings, food containers, plates and utensils, and condiments.

***After you host***

* If you chose to use any items that are reusable (e.g., seating covers, tablecloths, linen napkins), wash and disinfect them after the event.
* Monitor yourself and the people in your household for signs and symptoms of COVID-19

