



ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DANIEL W. GILMORE, PH.D., MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



“PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY”

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News Release

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Contact: Megan Graziano
315-798-5229

Oneida County Announces Car Seat Safety Events *Limited Number of Free Car Seats Available*

The Oneida County Health Department announced today several car seat safety events that it will be co-hosting with the Sheriff's Office beginning in February.

The event locations will be in various locations across the county over the next few months:

- Deerfield Volunteer Fire Department, 5476 Trenton Road, Utica on February 27th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Waterville Volunteer Fire Department, 222 E. Main Street, Waterville on March 21st from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Deerfield Volunteer Fire Department, 5476 Trenton Road, Utica on April 17th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Griffiss International Airport, Airport Operations Building, 706 Hangar Road, Rome on May 7th, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Clark Mills Fire Department, 7700 Main Street, Clark Mills on June 13th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Additional dates, times and locations will be announced throughout the year.

Free car seats will be available to eligible parents/guardians who need a car seat. Appointments are required. For those already in possession of a car seat, a certified technician can be available to check that it is installed properly, also by appointment only.

“Our events not only provide car seats but also help teach families the importance of safety in vehicles and how to properly secure their children in vehicles,” said Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2021, 711 children ages 12 and younger, were killed in vehicle crashes. 36% of the children who died, were not buckled up. Having children properly secured in a vehicle greatly reduces the chances of serious injury or death when in a vehicle accident.

ADMINISTRATION

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-6400 • FAX: (315) 266-6138

SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5249 • FAX: (315) 731-3491

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 4TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5064 • FAX: (315) 798-6486

CLINICAL SERVICES

406 ELIZABETH ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5748 • FAX: (315) 798-1057

“There are many factors to consider with car seats,” said Daniel W. Gilmore, Ph.D., MPH, Oneida County Director of Health. “The child’s age, height, weight and development, but also the vehicle in which it’s installed and the laws in place. In New York State, all children must be rear facing until the age of two and secured in an appropriate child restraint system while riding in a motor vehicle, until the age of eight. Additionally, children under the age of 13 should ride in the backseat.”

Seats do expire and should be replaced at that time. If a car seat is in a vehicle that has been in an accident, it may need to be replaced.

A limited number of free car seats will be distributed by appointment only. Infant, convertible and booster seats are available to those parents/guardians who are eligible. Requirements include:

- Income eligible – must provide proof of assistance
- Child in need of a seat must be present at the event
- If pregnant, must be due within 3 months
- Must bring a vehicle for a seat to be installed in
- Must reside in Oneida County

For eligibility and registration for these events, please call 315-798-5229 or send an email to CarSeatSafety@ocgov.net.

For more information about how to find the right car seat for your child, you can visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/car-seats-and-booster-seats>.

These car seat safety event are made possible through a grant offered by New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee.