



# 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”

OCGOV.NET/HEALTH

## News Release

March 8, 2022  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano  
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## Oneida County to Host Car Seat Safety Events

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

The events will take place at the Deerfield Fire House located at 5476 Trenton Road in Utica on the following dates:

- April 14, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- May 12, 2022 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- June 9, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- July 13, 2022 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- August 18, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- September 1, 2022 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- September 21, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Free car seats will be available to income-qualified candidates by appointment only. 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.

“These events provide our residents the proper information and tools to protect their children while riding in vehicles,” said Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. “Having your children properly secured in the appropriate seat greatly reduces the risk of serious injury or death in the event of an accident.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2019, 38% of the children 12 and younger who died in a car crash were unbuckled.

Finding the right car seat for a child depends on multiple factors including the child’s age, height and weight, as well as the guidelines of the law. The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles requires an appropriate child safety restraint system for all children until their eighth birthday. It can be a child safety seat, a harness, a vest or a booster seat attached with the vehicle seat belt system, but not the vehicle seat belt alone. It should not be used in the front seat of the vehicle and must be rear-facing in vehicles until the age of two. Additionally, all children under the age of 13 should be riding in the back seat.

### ADMINISTRATION

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5<sup>TH</sup> FL.,  
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501

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### SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5<sup>TH</sup> FL.,  
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501

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### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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### CLINICAL SERVICES

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To ensure children are riding safely, the Oneida County Health Department, along with the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, can provide a free car seat and the training to independently install the car seat.

“Errors can happen when choosing which seat to use, installing the seat or moving your child up to the next seat before they are ready,” said Daniel W. Gilmore, Ph.D. MPH, Oneida County Director of Health. “This program helps prevent those errors through education and by providing the proper seat for the child.”

A limited number of free car seats will be distributed by appointment only to those parent/guardian drivers who are eligible. Requirements include:

- Meeting income eligibility – provide proof of public assistance.
- Bringing the child who is in need of the car seat to the appointment.
  - If pregnant, baby must be expected within the next three months.
- Bringing the vehicle for the seat to be installed.

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