



ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Oneida County Health Department Expands Car Seat Program *Announcement Comes During National Child Passenger Safety Week*

The Oneida County Health Department kicked off National Child Passenger Safety Week with the announcement that it is expanding its Car Seat Program.

"Oneida County has been hosting free car seat giveaways and safety education events for a number of years at the Deerfield Fire House," said Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. "Countless families have been helped through this successful program and their children are safer because of it. With the recent addition of more certified trainers, we are now in a position to expand the program into other areas of the county and what better time to make this announcement than during national Child Passenger Safety Week."

New car seat events will take place at the following locations:

- **Griffiss International Airport**, Airport Operations Building, 706 Hangar Road, Rome on October 12th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Waterville Volunteer Fire Department**, 222 E. Main St., Waterville on November 17th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"Children's safety in vehicles is extremely important and this program really allows us to help prevent tragedies," said Oneida County Director of Health Daniel W. Gilmore, Ph.D., MPH. "We are happy to announce these two additional car seat events this year and we look forward to hosting more events at more locations in 2023."

The county will also be hosting a car seat safety event at the Deerfield Fire House located at 5476 Trenton Road in Utica on September 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A limited number of free car seats will be given by appointment only to those who are eligible. Qualifications include:

- Oneida County residents only.
- Parents/legal guardians only.
- Must meet income eligibility requirements of receiving public assistance, Medicaid, Food Stamps, WIC or SNAP.
- Child must be present at the event or pregnant mothers must be within 3 months of expected delivery.

ADMINISTRATION

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
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SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5TH FL.,
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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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All who register must participate in an educational course online prior to the appointment. To register for any of the upcoming events or to get more information, please call 315-798-5229 or email carseatsafety@ocgov.net.

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a child is involved in a vehicle crash every 25 seconds and in 2020, 614 children under the age of 14 died as a result of these crashes. Despite the fact that vehicle accidents cannot always be prevented, death and injury can be prevented by securing children in car seats. Car seats reduce the risk of infant fatality by 71%. There are a number of factors to consider when determining which seat is best. Age, height, weight, and the child's developmental abilities are all factors. Additionally, New York State requires all children be in an appropriate child restraint until at least age 8 and those under age 2 must be rear facing. Children should not ride in the front seat of a vehicle until at least 13 years-old.

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 Events are made possible through a grant offered by New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.