ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PHYLLIS D. ELLIS, BSN, MS, FACHE
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

OCGOV.NET/HEALTH

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano
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Oneida County to Host Car Seat Events as Part of Child Passenger Safety Week
Sessions Held on Sept. 23 & 30 in Utica

The Oneida County Health Department and the Oneida County Sheriff's Office will be hosting two car seat safety events this month as part of Child Passenger Safety Week.

The first event will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 23, 2020 and the following event will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on September 30, 2020. Both events will take place at the Deerfield Fire Station in Utica. Car seats will be available to income-qualified candidates by appointment only. For those already in possession of a car seat, a certified technician will be available to check that it is installed properly.

Child Passenger Safety Week runs September 20 to 26, 2020.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), car crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13 years-old.

"Choosing the right seat for your child and installing it correctly, can greatly reduce the risk of injury of your child in the event of a crash," said Phyllis D. Ellis, BSN, MS, FACHE, Oneida County Director of Health.

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 8th 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; should not be used in the front seat of the vehicle and must be rear-facing in vehicles until the age of two.

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

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"We are happy to be able to provide brand new seats and education to families in need," Ellis said.

A limited number of free car seats will be distributed by appointment only to those parents/guardians 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.
- Passing COVID screening questionnaire
- Wearing a mask throughout the event

For eligibility and registration for these events, please call 315-798-5229.

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.

This Car Seat Safety Event has been made possible through a grant offered by New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.

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