



# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.  
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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



"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

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## News Release

October 07, 2020  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano  
315-798-5229

## Oneida County to Host Car Seat Safety Event

The Oneida County Health Department and the Oneida County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a car seat safety event this month.

The event will take place from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on October 21, 2020 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 can be available to check that it is installed properly, also by appointment only.

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 Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. "These events provide our residents in need with the proper means to keep their children safe."

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.

"We are happy to be able to provide brand new seats and education to families in need," said Phyllis D. Ellis, BSN, MS, FACHE, Oneida County Director of Health.

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

### ADMINISTRATION

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

### SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

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

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 4<sup>TH</sup> 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



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- 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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