

AUGUST 9, 2023

# MCHD HEALTH BLOG

*The greatest wealth of a community is the health of the people.*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.**



## TRAVELING BACK TO SCHOOL SAFELY

With the new school year only one week away, we are going to continue sharing Back-to-School safety tips this week. This week we are looking at safely traveling to and from school.

How will your child get to school? A safe route to school is a vital part of your child's day. If your child walks to a bus stop, practice walking to the bus stop with them before the first day of school. Talk to your child about safety measure such as:

- Walking on the sidewalk, if one is available, or walking facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Stopping to look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming before crossing the street.
- Making eye contact with drivers before crossing and to always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections.
- Watching the road, not their phone.
- Never playing or pushing others when they walk around traffic.

If your child takes the bus to school, teach them school bus safety rules and practice with them.

- Dress children in light colored clothing or jackets on dark mornings for greater visibility.
- Avoid clothing and jackets with drawstrings because they can be dangerous if they catch on objects on the bus or playground.
- Help children to be ready at the stop before their bus arrives. Be sure your child knows where to wait safely for the bus. Your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other.

Unsure of the school bus safety rules? The local bus drivers and staff at the bus garage would be happy to share this safety information with you. The Morgan Local Bus Garage can be reached at 740-962-3685.

If you are driving your child to school don't forget these safety reminders:

- Stay alert and avoid distracted driving.
- Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school's drop-off procedure.
- Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street.
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children.
- If your teen will be driving to school this year, set a good example; drive the way you want your teen to drive.

We wish all the students of Morgan County a safe and healthy school year! Be sure to stop by our table on 8/17, 8/24 and 8/31 at the Morgan County Farmer's Market to learn more about public health's role in our community. Our nurse will also be at the Morgan Junior High Open House 6-7:30pm on Monday, 8/14 if you have immunization questions. The greatest wealth of the community is the health of the people.