

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

MCHD HEALTH BLOG

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



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



CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

The third week of September is celebrated as Child Passenger Safety Week. The Morgan County Health Department works to prevent injury and promote safety. Keep reading to learn more about car seats.

Is your child in the right car seat? According to the National Digital Car Seat Check Form (NDCF) database children are often transitioned out of the appropriated car seat before it is safe to do so. About 25% of children are moved from forward-facing car seats to booster seats too soon, and about 90% of children using lap-and-shoulder seat belts should still be in a forward-facing car seat or booster seat (NDCF). When trying to figure out which seat is best for your child, always read the instructions for the car seat. Each car seat has height and weight requirements that must be met to use the seat correctly. Putting a child in the wrong seat for their height and/or weight is dangerous and can cause serious injury during a car crash. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has a car seat finder that can help you pick the right seat for your little one. Visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/right-seat> to find the right seat for you!

Not sure if your kid still needs to be in a car seat? Most kids will need to be in some type of car seat until at least age 8. Kids should be kept in a car seat until they properly fit a seat belt. According to NHTSA, for a seat belt to fit properly, the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. All kids should ride in the back seat regardless of car seat usage until they are at least 13 years old.

Still confused about car seats or not sure if you installed your car seat correctly? Don't worry, the Morgan County Health Department has a certified passenger safety technician on staff that can answer your questions or inspect your car seat to make sure it is installed correctly.

Don't have a car seat, but need one? MCHD is a part of the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes program that helps provide car seats at no cost to those who qualify. Call in to speak with our car seat technician to learn more or get signed up for the program, 740-962-4572.

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