

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET transportation.ky.gov

Jim Gray Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Andy Beshear

Governor

Contact: Marla Marrs Office of Highway Safety 502-352-5963 marla.marrs@ky.gov

Parents and Caregivers Urged To Keep Kids Safe in Vehicles

Sept. 15-21 is National Child Passenger Safety Week

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 10, 2024) – Team Kentucky reminds Kentucky parents and caregivers about the importance of correctly buckling kids in the right seats for their age and size during National Child Passenger Safety Week. This annual awareness campaign aims to make Kentucky highways safer by encouraging practices to safeguard some of the most vulnerable passengers.

"Our children are our most precious cargo, and as a dad, I know parents and caregivers want to do all they can to keep their kids safe," said Gov. Andy Beshear. "Simple practices like checking to make sure your kids are in the right seats and are buckled up every trip is a small step that can make a big difference."

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children, and the latest research from the <u>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA</u>) shows that 46% of car seats are misused. Common issues are children being in the wrong type of car seat for their age and size and car seats being installed improperly — both of which leave children vulnerable to injury in a crash.

"It's common for parents to assume their kids are safe in the car, but many don't know the full risks," said Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Jim Gray. "Our focus is on providing caregivers with the right information and resources to help them make the best decisions for their children's safety."

Talk to an Expert

There are certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians who help educate parents and caregivers about the right seats for their kids and help them learn how to install the seats correctly. To find a technician in Kentucky, visit NHTSA's <u>car seat inspection</u> <u>location link</u>, call Norton Healthcare at 502-629-7337 or email <u>ncpw@nortonhealthcare.org</u> with your city and/or county.

Go to a Free Checkup Event

Free checkup events occur at various locations throughout the year. There are a few events occurring this week in Kentucky:

Prestonsburg Police Department

200 N. Lake Drive #104, Prestonsburg, KY 41653 Sept. 15-20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Compassion Pediatrics Pikeville

484 Tollage Creek, Pikeville, KY 41501 Sept. 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Marion County EMS

436 W Walnut St, Lebanon, KY Sept. 17, 2-6 p.m.

Manchester Fire Department

207 Lyttleton Church St, Manchester, KY 40962 Sept. 18, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Louisville - Shively Fire Department

1800 Park Drive, Louisville, KY 40216 Sept. 19, 2:30-5 p.m.

Pikeville Walmart

254 Cassidy Blvd., Pikeville, KY 41501 Sept. 19, 2-4 p.m.

Prestonsburg City Hall

200 N. Lake Drive #104, Prestonsburg, KY 41653 Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Find Out More NHTSA encourages everyone who drives child passengers to check out its free, online resources at <u>www.nhtsa.gov/TheRightSeat</u>.

- <u>Car Seat Types</u>: Determine whether your child fits best in a rear-facing car seat, forward-facing car seat, booster seat or seat belt.
- <u>Car Seat Recommendations</u>: Review NHTSA's recommendations for the best car seat for your child's age and size.

- <u>Find and Compare</u>: Find and compare car seats with NHTSA's handy car seat finder, which also searches specific brands.
- Download NHTSA's <u>SaferCar app</u> and save your vehicle and car seat info in your "virtual garage." If any of your saved equipment is included in a safety recall, the app will send you a notification.



###