

Lake County
General Health District



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Lake County General Health District

33 Mill St

Painesville,
Ohio 44077

Painesville:

(440) 350-2543

Cleveland: **(440)**

918-2543

Madison: **(440)**

428-4348 Ext. 2543

www.lcghd.org

Frank Kellogg, R.S., M.P.H., Health Commissioner

News Release
February 7, 2011

CONTACT: Christine Margalis, (440) 350-2879
Lake County General Health District

LAKE COUNTY CAR SEAT CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS ARE READY TO INSTALL CAR SEATS/BOOSTER SEATS

According to Ohio's Law, children riding in vehicles must be properly restrained in a child safety seat. Once they have outgrown their child safety seat, children are then required to ride in a booster seat until they are eight years old or four foot nine inches tall. Children who are eight to 15 years of age must wear a seatbelt regardless of where they are riding in the vehicle. Children 12 and under are safest when properly buckled in the back seat of a vehicle.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) research, 8,959 lives have been saved from 1975 to 2008 by the proper use of child restraints. In 2008 among children age five in passenger vehicles, an estimated 244 lives were saved by child restraint use. Child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers riding in passenger cars. Child safety seats save lives, but only if they are installed correctly.

In Lake County, there are several locations where residents can have their child safety seats inspected by Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. Technicians have completed a four-day training course that combines classroom instruction, hands-on work with car seats and vehicles, and a community safety seat check-up event where students demonstrate proper use and installations of child restraints and safety belts, and then teach those skills to parents.

To have your seat checked by a Certified Technician, please contact:

Concord Township Fire Department: 440-354-7504

Lake County General Health District: 440-350-2879

Lake Health: 440-354-1048

Lake Metroparks: 440-358-7290

Leroy Township Fire Department: 440-254-4124

Mentor Police Department: 440-974-5760

Perry Village Police Department: 440-259-2671

For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers can refer to the following Four Steps for Kids guidelines that determine which restraint system is best suited to protect their children based on age and size:

1. For the best possible protection, keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats as long as possible up to the height and weight of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear-facing until a minimum of age one and 20 pounds, but preferably 18 to 24 months.
2. When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at a minimum of age one and at least 20 pounds they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats in the back seat until they reach the upper limit or height requirement of the particular seat (usually around age four and 40 pounds).
3. Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age four and 40 pounds, they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat until the seat belt fits properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across their upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age eight or when they are four foot nine inches tall).
4. When children outgrow their booster seats (usually at age eight or when they are four feet nine inches tall), they can use the adult seat belt in the back seat if it fits properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

The Lake County General Health District can provide low-cost child safety seats and booster seats to families who meet income and program guidelines. For more information, please contact Christine Margalis at 440-350-2879.

###