



CITY of NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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For Immediate Release: July 5, 2022

Northampton Department of Health and Human Services Hosts Infant Car Seat Inspection Event

NORTHAMPTON - The Northampton Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will be hosting a child passenger inspection event Saturday, July 9, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Smith Vocational and Agricultural School, 80 Locust Street. Inspections and child passenger safety education will be provided by certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

This event is free of charge and is open to caregivers of children of all ages, including family members, friends, and anyone else who regularly transports children in their personal vehicle. Caregivers are encouraged to bring their children to ensure the fit and safety of their car seats and seat belts, but this is not a requirement.

In May 2022, DHHS received a grant award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Office to provide car seats to families in need at no cost. DHHS will have infant car seats, convertible car seats, combination seats and booster seats available. Certified safety technicians will assess which seat is appropriate for your model car and weight/age of your young one.

This event is open to all and is not restricted to residents of Northampton. Car seat inspections are first come, first serve at this event, however if you are unable to attend or would like an appointment at another time, contact DHHS at 413-587-1214.

Car seats and boosters, when installed and used correctly, provide ample protection for infants and children in the event of a collision. However, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), car crashes remain one of the leading causes of death for children ages 1 to 13 years old and 35% of children killed in car crashes were not properly restrained. A startling 46% of all car seats and boosters are not used correctly, and well-intentioned caregivers may be making mistakes during installation without realizing. This is why it is so important to learn how to properly install car seats so you can use them correctly every time you drive.

Child Passenger Safety Technicians are a resource to you, and will work with you to provide education and verify that you are equipped with the knowledge and skills you need so you can drive away safely and confidently. To ensure there are no barriers between you and child passenger safety, this service is completely free of charge - whether you attend this event or schedule a private appointment on another day.

For more information about our child passenger safety program, visit <https://northamptonma.gov/2418/Car-Seat-Safety>. Questions may be directed to Public Health Nurse Vivian Franklin at vfranklin@northamptonma.gov or (413)587-4919 and Donna Bowman at dbowman@northamptonma.gov or (413)587-1330.