

Columbus Public Health's Car Seat Program

COVID-19 Community Car Seat Guidance

To Our Community

Car seat education and instruction is very hands-on, with many mutually touched surfaces that could pose an exposure risk of COVID-19 to staff and the community. While we have currently suspended operations, our team is constantly evaluating and updating plans to determine the safest ways to provide assistance.

We encourage families to stay home. If one must go out for groceries or other essentials, keep infants, children, and those at higher risk at home with another caregiver.

Car Seat Solutions

Borrowing Car Seats Is Not Recommended

We strongly DISCOURAGE borrowing car seats at this time because COVID-19 can live on surfaces for several days. Currently, the recommended way to kill the virus is with disinfectant methods which are largely prohibited on car seats. It is **not** safe to spray or wipe car seats with Lysol/Clorox, essential oils or other disinfectant chemicals.

Retail Car Seat Options

We understand that retailer options cannot compare to the reduced cost program at Columbus Public Health. However, there are a handful of budget-friendly seats that can be considered as alternatives.

- **Cosco Scenera NEXT Convertible Car Seat**

- approx. \$48 (most cost effective option)
- Rear facing 5-40 pounds, Forward facing 22-40 pounds
- Not a long-lasting seat for children 2+ years old, fits most newborns when adjusted properly
- <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Cosco-Scenera-NEXT-Convertible-Car-Seat-Boulder-II/5h5432621>

- **Cosco APT 50 Convertible Car Seat**

- approx. \$60
- Rear facing 5-40 pounds, Forward facing 22-50 pounds
- <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Cosco-APT-50-in-Black-Arrows/44782653>

- **Evenflo Embrace Infant Car Seat**

- approx. \$80
- Rear facing ONLY seat, 4-35 pounds
- <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Evenflo-Embrace-Infant-Car-Seat-Blossom/433201006>

- **Graco SnugRide 35 Lite Infant Car Seat**

- approx. \$90
- Rear facing ONLY seat, 4-35 pounds
- <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Graco-SnugRide-35-Lite-Infant-Car-Seat-Sheffield/795110867>

*** We advise families to avoid purchasing Baby Trend seats and the Evenflo Nurture infant seat. In our experience, these seats have increased difficulty achieving a proper fit on the child and/or in properly installing or using the seat.**

Questions?

While we have temporarily suspended in-person seat checks, we are happy to speak with families over the phone if you're having difficulties with installation or usage of whichever car seat you may have. We look forward to resuming normal operations just as soon as it is safe and responsible to do so.

Car Seat Program Infoline: (614) 645-7748 (callback times may vary based on staffing)

Car Seat Program Website: www.columbus.gov/carseats

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