March 2026

CPS NEWS

POINTS OF INTEREST

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Hearts to Home: Car Seat Tolerance Screening at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Cardiology and Injury Prevention

by Marie Pagnotta, MPH, CPSTI, Injury Prevention Lead Coordinator

At UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, multiple departments are coming together to increase car seat knowledge in a clinical setting. In collaboration with the Cardiology department, Injury Prevention educated bedside nurses. The goal of this partnership was to increase infants passing car seat tolerance screenings (CSTS). It was informed by clinical research by Pediatric Cardiology Fellow, Nicholas Barresi, MD.

Dr. Barresi's team reviewed about 200 medical charts from UPMC Children's Cardiology patients from 2020 to 2024, evaluating the car seat tolerance screening (CSTS) failure rate, clinical factors associated with test failure, and the impact of a failed test. One finding was the impact of proper car seat positioning. When looking at infants who failed the CSTS, the majority (58%) passed within 24 hours simply by proper positioning, including harness placement. Proper positioning prevented chin to chest head slump and therefore hypoventilation (too shallow breathing or too slow breathing) and desaturation (drop in blood oxygen levels).

With this knowledge, Dr. Barresi consulted with Marie Pagnotta, MPH, CPSTI, Lead Coordinator for Injury Prevention, to develop a more visual and user-friendly CSTS protocol. Marie took pictures on proper harness placement and ensuring appropriate angle of infant seats to include in the protocol. Marie used dolls, infant car seats with and without the base, and tightly rolled receiving blankets to demonstrate correct fit and appropriate body supports, when allowed by manufacturer. With this information, Dr. Barresi updated the CSTS protocol.

Finally, Dr. Barresi hosted an in-person educational session for bedside nurses on the Cardiology Unit to gauge their understanding of the CSTS policy and proper car seat positioning. At this session, he conducted a survey, reviewed his research findings from chart review. Marie presented information about proper positioning and hospital-based resources available to bedside nurses. Nurses learned of the updated, user-friendly CSTS protocol, car seat technicians on site available to assist with positioning infants and educating families, and the PA TIPP loan program. UPMC Children's is a loan program site so hospital staff can provide a car seat if the family's seat is not appropriate for the child. The presentation was well received and the partnership across departments at UPMC Children's, thanks to the support of PA TIPP resources, will ensure to keep children safe.

This collaboration ensures safe travel for a particularly special group of children: infants with congenital heart disease. In this work, every detail matters…every breath, every heartbeat, and every ride home counts. When it comes to these babies, safety isn't just a priority, it's something we truly take to heart.

A car seat tolerance screen (CSTS) is a hospital-based safety evaluation for high-risk or premature newborns (typically <37 weeks gestation) to ensure the child can sit upright in a car seat for 90–120 minutes without experiencing apnea, bradycardia, or oxygen desaturation. The screening is performed shortly before discharge, usually for babies with potential breathing issues.

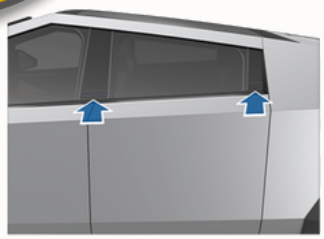
Key Aspects of Car Seat Tolerance Screening:

- Purpose: To monitor for bradycardia (< 80 – 90 bpm), Apnea (> 20 seconds), and oxygen saturation dropping (< 90%) while the child is in a semi-reclined, car-seat position.
- Candidates: Infants born before 37 weeks' gestation, low-birth-weight infants (< 2500 g), or those with potential respiratory issues.
- Process: The baby is placed in their own car seat with proper harnessing, and sensors are attached to monitor heart and lung function.
- Duration: The test usually lasts 90 minutes to 120 minutes, or longer, if the length of travel exceeds 2 hours.

Car safety seat with a small cloth between crotch strap and infant, retainer clip positioned at the midpoint of the infant's chest, and blanket rolls on both sides of the infant.

AAP Clinical Report: Safe Transportation of Preterm and Low Birth Weight Infants at Hospital Discharge
The Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention and the Committee on Fetus and Newborn Pediatrics (2009) 123 (5): 1424–1429.
This Clinical Report was reaffirmed August 2013, June 2018, and June 2025. (https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2009-0559)

Electronic Door Handles on Some New Vehicles



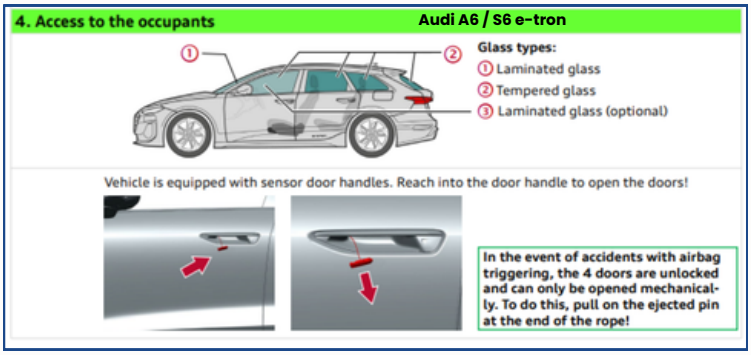
Some new cars have replaced the mechanical latch door handle with electric door latches and handles. The electric handles remain flush against the door until the car is unlocked, using an electric motor to open the door. Some of these vehicles have also replaced the interior door handles with buttons that require electricity and motors to exit the vehicle. When working correctly, the button signals an electric motor to unlatch the door. If the driver or passenger depresses the button and nothing happens, knowing how to open a car door manually becomes crucial, especially in an emergency situation.

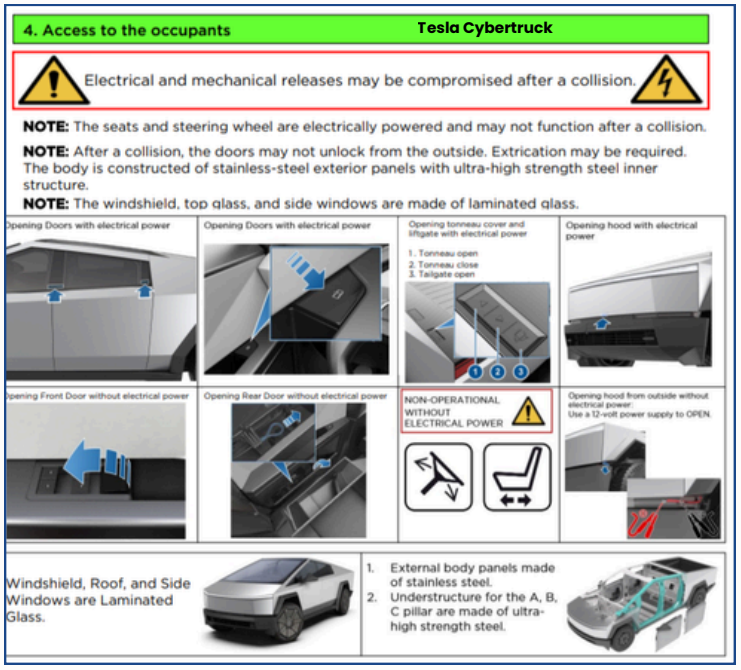
Tesla Cybertruck: Opening and Closing Doors from Outside
Doors are electrically powered. When you approach Cybertruck carrying a phone key, the doors and tailgate automatically unlock. To open a door, press the exterior door release button on the pillar to the right of each door.

Cars with buttons that electronically unlatch doors generally have a backup manual release lever to use when the car loses power or after a crash. The location of the manual door release varies by automaker and is specified in the owner's manual. Common locations for emergency levers are inside the door storage pocket, or on the floor next to the seat. Other models require you to pull hard on the interior handle to the second notch or catch to trigger the manual door latch. While automakers do not intentionally hide the mechanical release location, the physical lever is not necessarily prominent. When you enter a car with a door button instead of a traditional mechanical door handle, refer to the vehicle owner's manual to familiarize yourself with the manual door release placement. It's best to understand the procedure before an emergency occurs.

Resources:

- **NHTSA Emergency Response Guides**:
  - Vehicle manufacturers submit emergency response guides and rescue sheets to NHTSA for electric-powered passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks and buses. An emergency response guide contains in-depth vehicle-specific information related to fire, submersion, leakage of fluids, towing and storage of vehicles for responders. A rescue sheet is an abbreviated version of the emergency response guide that gives quick information about a vehicle's construction, intended for use by responders at the scene of a crash. You can filter by vehicle make and model to view emergency response guides and rescue sheets.
    - Rescue sheet includes the section "Access to the occupants".

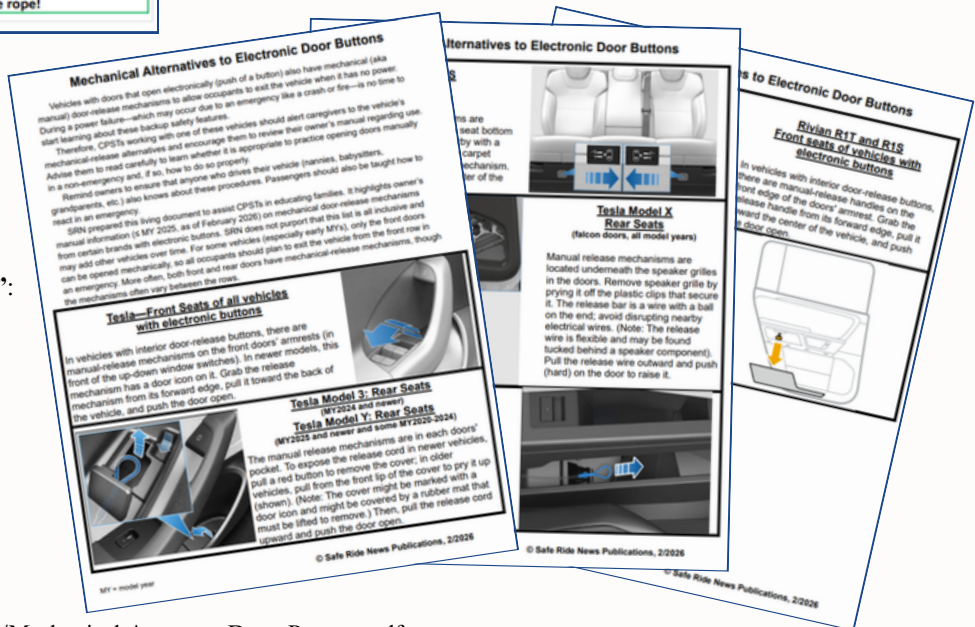




https://www.nhtsa.gov/emergency-response-guides

Safe Ride News:

- "***Mechanical Alternatives to Electronic Door Buttons***":
  - A free resource to use when educating caregivers who own a vehicle with electronic door-release buttons. It advises techs to point caregivers to their manuals to learn about how to open doors in an emergency.



https://www.saferidenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Mechanical-Access-to-Door-Buttons.pdf

Continued on page3

Electronic Door Handles on Some New Vehicles

Continued from page 2

Consumer ReportsArticle: "*How to Escape Your Car If the Electronic Door Handle Fails*":

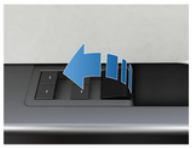
Vehicle Manual Instructions: Opening the Electronic Front Doors From the Inside:

- **Audi:** Some models can be opened mechanically by pulling the handle "forcefully" and "beyond its noticeable resistance" twice.
- **BMW:** Vehicle has a manual door release below the unlock button, near the storage pocket.
- **Chevrolet Corvette:** The emergency door release is on the floor between the door and the sill of the car. Pull up the lever and the door will open.
- **Fiat 500e:** Pull the manual door handle located in the door pocket of each door, right in front of the speaker.
- **Ford Mustang Mach-E:** The door handle inside the door armrest doubles as a manual release. Pull it back further and the door will open.
- **Genesis G90:** Pull the emergency open lever under the door pocket twice to open the door.
- **Lexus "Digital Latch"**—common in newer Lexus vehicles: Override by pulling the door lever toward you twice instead of pushing it once.
- **2025 and newer Rivian R1T pickup trucks** and **R1S SUVs**: Manual door release handle is behind the electronic door release button.
- **Tesla Models 3, Y, & Cybertruck/2021-and-newer Tesla Model S & X**: Manual door release lever is behind the electronic door release button.
- **Volvo EX90**: Pull the door release lever all the way up twice to open the door mechanically.

Vehicle Manual Instructions: Opening the Electronic Rear Doors From the Inside:

- Some vehicles with electronic interior door releases—including some older Tesla Model Y and Model 3 vehicles—do not have a manual rear door release.
- **2025** and newer **Rivian R1T and R1S**: Opening manually requires pulling off a door panel to the left of the electronic handle and pulling down on a release cord.
- **2024** and newer **Tesla Model 3** sedans: Release is hidden under a slot in the rear door pocket. Pop the cover off and pull the mechanical release cable forward.
- Newer **Tesla Model Y**: Remove the mat from the bottom of the rear door pocket, press the red tab to remove an access door that reveals a mechanical release cable, and pull the cable.
- **Tesla Model X** with nonfunctioning powered rear "falcon" doors: First remove a speaker grille before pulling on a release cable and manually pushing the door up.
- **Tesla Model S**: Fold back the edge of the carpet below the rear seats to expose the mechanical release cable and pull the cable toward the center of the vehicle.

Opening Doors with No Power



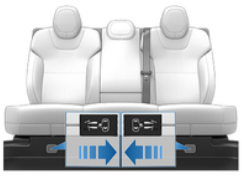
Tesla Cybertruck: To open a **front door** manually, pull up the manual door release located in front of the window switches and push the door open.

Tesla Model S: To open a **front door** in the unlikely situation when the Model S has no power, pull up the manual door release located in front of the window switches.

Tesla Cybertruck: To open a **rear door** manually, perform the following steps.

1. Remove the rubber mat on the bottom of the rear door's map pocket.
2. Pull the mechanical release cable forward and push the rear door open.

Tesla Model S: To open a **rear door** in the unlikely situation when the Model S has no power, fold back the edge of the carpet below the rear seats to expose the mechanical release cable. Pull the mechanical release cable toward the center of the vehicle.



https://www.consumerreports.org/cars/car-safety/how-to-escape-your-car-if-the-electronic-door-release-fails-a8152892189/

NoHeatstroke.org

80% of the total heat rise occurs in the 1st 30-min. Max temperatures can exceed **150°**

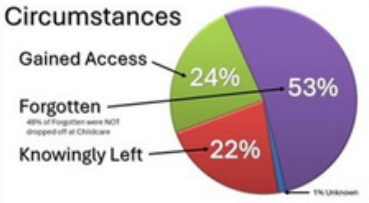
Car Interior Air Temperatures				
Elapsed Time	Outside Temp (°F)			
	70°	80°	90°	100°
10 min	89°	99°	109°	119°
30 min	104°	114°	124°	134°
60 min	113°	123°	133°	143°

Know the Facts

- A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's. When a child is left in a vehicle, that child's temperature can rise quickly — and the situation can quickly become dangerous.
- Heatstroke begins when the core body temperature reaches about 104°. Death occurs at a core body temperature of 107° or above.
- In 2025, 31 children died of heatstroke in vehicles. NoHeatstroke.org

Parents and Caregivers

- Never leave a child in a vehicle unattended for any length of time. Rolling windows down or parking in the shade does little to change the interior temperature of the vehicle.
- Make it a habit to check your entire vehicle — especially the back seat — before locking the doors and walking away. Over 50% of pediatric vehicular heatstroke deaths are a result of a parent or caregiver forgetting a child in a car.
- Ask your childcare provider to call if your child doesn't show up for care as expected.
- Place a personal item like a purse or briefcase in the back seat, as another reminder to look before you lock. Write a note or place a stuffed animal in the passenger's seat to remind you that a child is in the back seat.
- Store car keys and fobs out of a child's reach and teach children that a vehicle is not a play area.



Click It or Ticket, May 18 – 31, 2026. is a national high-visibility enforcement campaign that focuses on the consequences of not wearing a seat belt while urging riders to always buckle up. May 18 – 31, 2026.

Buckle up, Every Time, Every Vehicle — for short trips and long trips, and in every seating position.

- Seat Belt Safety Starts with You
  - Your children are watching. Children whose parents or caregivers buckle up are much more likely to buckle up themselves.
- The right seat belt fit matters:
  - The shoulder belt should lay flat across the middle of your chest and away from your neck.
  - The lap belt should fit across your hips, not your stomach.
  - Never put the shoulder belt behind your back or under your arm.

Child Passenger Safety Trainings

Certification Courses

The CPS Certification course provides the training necessary to become a certified CPS technician. This four-day course establishes CPS certification for a two-year cycle. The fee is $95. To register, go to cert.safekids.org.

Washington County*
Course ID: PA202510301018
Date: April 7 - 10, 2026
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Peters Fire Department
245 E. McMurray Road
McMurray, PA 15317
Contact: Kristen Urso
Phone: 412-885-0266
Email: kurso@paaap.org
***Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.**

Cumberland County
Course ID: PA20260122115
Date: April 28 - May 1, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Hampden Township Fire Department
1200 Good Hope Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Contact: Shannon Depatto
Phone: 717-982-7402
Email: afickesmountz@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

York County*
Course ID: PA20260204152
Date: May 5 - 8, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Carroll Township Municipal Building
555 Chestnut Grove Road
Dillsburg, PA 17019
Contact: Missy Sweitzer
Phone: 717-840-2330
Email: mmsweitzer@yorkcountypa.gov
***Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.**

Berks County*
Course ID: PA2026011992
Date: June 15 - 18, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
AAA Reading Berks
Lower Level Conference Classroom
920 Van Reed Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Contact: Cheryl Gouker
Phone: 610-374-4531 ext. 7117
Email: cgouker@aaardgberks.com
*Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.

Allegheny County* (Hybrid)
Course ID: PA20260224248H
Date: June 17 – July 1, 15, 29, 2026
In-Person Date: August 12, 2026
Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
In-Person Time: 8:00 am – 5:30 pm
Hosanna House
807 Wallace Avenue
Suite 415
Pittsburg, PA 15221
Contact: Nicole Barnett
Phone: 412-247-7962
Email: nicole.barnett@alleghenycounty.us
***Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.**

Berks County*
Course ID: PA2026011994
Date: July 27 - 30, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
AAA Reading Berks
Lower Level Conference Classroom
920 Van Reed Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Contact: Cheryl Gouker
Phone: 610-374-4531 ext. 7117
Email: cgouker@aaardgberks.com
***Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.**

Union County*
Course ID: PA20260311308
Date: July 27 - 29, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
WellSpan Urgent Care
Conference Room
120 Hardwood Drive
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Contact: Deanna Carson
Phone: 570-768-3201
Email: dcarson@wellspan.org
***Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.**

Cumberland County
Course ID: PA20260122116
Date: April 28 - May 1, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Hampden Township Fire Department
1200 Good Hope Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Contact: Shannon Depatto
Phone: 717-982-7402
Email: afickesmountz@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

York County*
Course ID: PA20260204153
Date: October 6 - 9, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Southeastern Adams Volunteer
Emergency Services (SAVES)
5865 Hanover Road
Hanover, PA 17331
Contact: Missy Sweitzer
Phone: 717-840-2330
Email: mmsweitzer@yorkcountypa.gov
***Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.**

Indiana County*
Course ID: PA20260312318
Date: October 14 - 16, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Citizen's Ambulance Service
2712 W. Pike Road
Indiana, PA 15701
Contact: Kristen Urso
Phone: 412-885-0266
Email: kurso@paaap.org
***Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.**

Renewal Courses

The CPS Renewal course is for CPS technicians with an expired certification. The one-day course allows recertification for a two-year cycle. The fee is $95. To register, go to cert.safekids.org.

Washington County*
Course ID: PA202511051052
Date: April 10, 2026
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Peters Fire Department
245 E. McMurray Road
McMurray, PA 15317
Contact: Kristen Urso
Phone: 412-885-0266
Email: kurso@paaap.org
***Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.**

Berks County*
Course ID: PA2026011993
Date: July 17, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
AAA Reading Berks
Lower Level Conference Classroom
920 Van Reed Road
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Contact: Cheryl Gouker
Phone: 610-374-4531 ext. 7117
Email: Cgouker@aaardgberks.com
***Controlled class: Contact lead instructor before registering for class.**

PA TIPP Child Passenger Safety Technical Update Classes

PA TIPP CPS Technical Update Course ID: 8234

Class is approved for 6 CEUs toward CPS Recertification. Contact your TIPP regional coordinator if you are interested in hosting or attending a CPS Technical Update.

PA TIPP instructors are approved as Emergency Medical Services Continuing Education Providers. EMTs can receive 6 EMS continuing education credits for attending the class.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend one of the following courses.

Luzerne County
Date: April 8, 2026
Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Lehigh Valley Health Network EMS
119 East Holly Street
Hazleton, PA 18201
Contact: Cathy Connors
Phone: 570-471-3026
Email: cconnors@paaap.org

Bradford County
Date: April 14, 2026
Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Hampton Inn
3080 North Elmira Street
Sayre, PA 18840
Contact: Cathy Connors
Phone: 570-471-3026
Email: cconnors@paaap.org

McKean County
Date: April 21, 2026
Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
McKean County Children and Youth Services
17115 Route 6
Smethport, PA 16749
Contact: Jill Staaf
Phone: 814-434-5101
Email: jstaaf@paaap.org

Delaware County
Date: April 23, 2026
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Tinicum Township Fire Company
99 Wanamaker Avenue
Essington, PA 19029
Contact: Teresa Ryclak
Phone: 484-446-3019
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Northampton County
Date: May 5, 2026
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lehigh Township Municipal Building
1069 Municipal Road
Walnutport, PA 18088
Contact: Teresa Ryclak
Phone: 484-446-3019
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Monroe County
Date: May 8, 2026
Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Monroe County EMA
100 Gypsum Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Contact: Cathy Connors
Phone: 570-471-3026
Email: cconnors@paaap.org

Chester County
Date: June 17, 2026
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
West Whiteland Fire Company
227 Crest Avenue
Exton, PA 19341
Contact: Teresa Ryclak
Phone: 484-446-3019
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

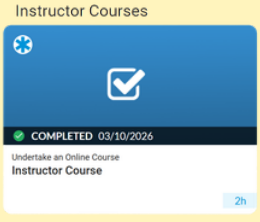
Berks County
Date: June 24, 2026
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
AAA Reading Berks
920 Van Reed Road
Reading, PA 19610
Contact: Teresa Ryclak
Phone: 484-446-3019
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Allegheny County
Date: July 8, 2026
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Moon Township Police Department
990 Beaver Grade Road
Moon Township, PA 15108
Contact: Kristen Urso
Phone: 412-885-0266
Email: kurso@paaap.org

Bucks County
Date: September 10, 2026
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Bucks County Public Safety Training Center
1760 S. Easton Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
Contact: Teresa Ryclak
Phone: 484-446-3019
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Lancaster County
Date: September 22, 2026
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Women and Babies Hospital
690 Good Drive
Lancaster, PA 17601
Contact: Teresa Ryclak
Phone: 484-446-3019
Email: trychlak@paaap.org

Safe Kids Training Portal



New Required Instructor Course: This requirement will go into effect on February 1, 2026. The required instructor course is available at training.safekids.org and must be completed by all instructors once during every certification cycle. For questions related to the course or implementation of the requirement, please reach out to Cass Herring cherring@safekids.org.

To log in, use your existing username from the certification site as your login name. If this is your first time visiting the site, select "Forgotten your details?" to request a new password for this site. For assistance with login or certificates, contact mlouzon@safekids.org.

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www.facebook.com/pakidstravelsafe.org

PA TIPP
661 Moore Road
Suite 200
King of Prussia, PA 19406
www.pakidstravelsafe.org

Traffic Injury Prevention Project Pennsylvania