



California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Vehicle Occupant Safety Program (VOSP)

e-Newsletter for California's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Community (Fall 2021)

This quarterly e-Newsletter provides a summary of CPS laws and programmatic support for the California community of local health departments, instructors, technicians, and advocates.

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I. CPS Week – September 19-25, 2021

Every September, CPS Week and Seat Check Saturday provides a time for us to remind the public about the vital components of correctly restraining our children while riding in the vehicle, at every age and size!

NHTSA and the Ad Council launched a new series of public service ads (PSAs) that urge parents and caregivers to protect their child's future at every stage of life, by making sure they secure them in the correct car seat for their age, height, and weight. The campaign materials were created pro bono by Campbell Ewald, Casanova McCann, Mister Face, and Wordsworth & Booth and include English and Spanish radio, print, outdoor, and web banner ads. The English PSAs direct to [NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat](https://www.nhtsa.gov/TheRightSeat) and the Spanish PSAs direct to [NHTSA.gov/Protegidos](https://www.nhtsa.gov/Protegidos), where parents can find more information on how to determine if their child is in the right seat for his or her age and size. Use these free safety materials to generate awareness about child car safety in your community throughout the year.

Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) has a variety of animated social videos for your use:

- ✓ [*Car Seat Safety Animated Video \(FULL\)*](#)
- ✓ [*Car Seat Safety Animated Video \(Seat Stages\)*](#)
- ✓ [*Car Seat Safety Animated Video \(Types of Boosters\)*](#)
- ✓ [*Car Seat Animated Video \(SHORT\)*](#)
- ✓ [*Child Passenger Safety Week Social Media Posts*](#)

II. Kids in Hot Cars

Twenty-two children in the U.S. have died this year because of Pediatric Vehicular Heatstroke (PVH), with one girl, a three-year-old, who died in a 102-degree vehicle in Visalia, California in June 2021. All these deaths can be prevented. The following links provide educational materials, infographics, and data to assist with your local campaigns!

- ✓ [NHTSA Heatstroke Prevention](#)
- ✓ [NoHeatStroke.org](#)
- ✓ [KidsandCars](#)

III. Louisiana CPS Law – Effective August 1, 2018

In 1971, the federal government established minimum standards for child safety seats and restraint systems to reduce the number of children killed or injured in motor vehicle crashes. Today, all states and territories have child passenger safety laws that require child safety seats for infants and children fitting specific criteria, but requirements vary based on age, weight, and height. California's CPS laws cover all children under the age of 16 to be appropriately restrained, with a fine structure that allocates convictions to the local public health department for community prevention. However, California's specific language is not the most comprehensive law in the country. Louisiana's CPS law has more extensive protections based on the latest research.

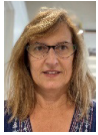
Age/Size	Restraint Use
Birth to at least 2 years old	Ride rear facing in an
At least 2 years old and has outgrown the rear facing seat by height or weight	Ride in a forward-facing child safety seat with an internal harness
4 years old and has outgrown the forward-facing seat with internal harness by height or weight	Ride restrained in a belt positioning child booster seat using a lap shoulder seat belt
9 years old or has outgrown the booster seat and can pass the 5 Step Test	Ride restrained with a lap shoulder seat belt secured correctly on the vehicle seat
Younger than 13 years old	Ride in the rear seat of a vehicle, when available and properly restrained

Additional references include:

- ✓ A child who can be placed in more than one category shall use the more protective category. Child safety seats must be used according to the manufacturer instructions.
- ✓ 5 Step Test: The seat belt fits correctly when the child sits all the way back against the vehicle seat, the child's knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat, the belt fits snugly across the child's thighs and lower hips and not the child's abdomen, and when the shoulder strap snugly crosses the center of the child's chest and not the child's neck.

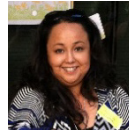
IV. We are here to support you!

Please contact VOSP staff if you have any CPS Technician Training requests or questions, need CPS educational materials, or want to be on the list to receive future VOSP e-Newsletters. We appreciate your efforts to improve vehicle occupant safety even during these trying and uncertain times. We will strive to provide you with the best customer service and support possible. Please reach out with any questions you may have.



Kate Bernacki, M.P.H.

Kate.Bernacki@cdph.ca.gov



Claudia Angel

Claudia.Angel@cdph.ca.gov

If you have any CPS programmatic questions, please contact **Mitch Zehnder**, the Office of Traffic Safety Occupant Protection and CPS State Coordinator, at (916) 509-3026 or Mitch.Zehnder@ots.ca.gov.

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