



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2020

Contact: mediainquiry@acs.nyc.gov

AS WEATHER GETS WARMER, NYC ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANNOUNCES TIPS TO KEEP KIDS SAFE THIS SUMMER

Summer Safety Tips Include Remaining Vigilant about Preventing the Spread of COVID-19, Installing Window Guards, Checking the Backseat Before Exiting a Vehicle, Keeping Cool & Hydrated, Preventing Accidental Drowning, Practicing Safe Sleep & Avoiding Personal Use of Fireworks

NEW YORK, NY – As the weather gets warmer, NYC Administration for Children's Services Commissioner David A. Hansell today announced summer safety tips for parents and caregivers.

"While we want New York City children to have a fun summer, it's most important that they have a safe summer. We should all continue to be vigilant about COVID-19 transmission, and as we head into the warmer weather, parents and caregivers should be mindful of some of the dangers that children can be exposed to during the summer months. We're urging New Yorkers to follow these important summer safety tips, including the installation of window guards to prevent children from falling, never leaving children in a hot car unattended, making sure kids keep cool and hydrated, and others," **said ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell.**

Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

As the weather gets warmer and New York City goes through reopening, it is important that we remain vigilant in protecting ourselves, our children, our family members and our community members from COVID-19. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, New Yorkers need to wear face coverings in public, remain socially distant when possible and practice good hand hygiene:

- Children over the age of 2 must wear a face covering when in public and unable to socially distance. Small children are more likely to touch their face covering, so caretakers should wash children's hands or apply hand sanitizer often.
- Stay home at all times if you are sick. If you're not feeling any better after 3 to 4 days, contact your health care provider.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing. Do not use your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others.

Due to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on New York City, ACS and the City of New York have developed a list of resources for those seeking assistance: [Coping Through COVID](#) and [Teens Take on COVID](#).

Free COVID-19 testing is now available in New York City at more than 100 locations across the city. Visit the [COVID-19 Testing](#) page for more information.

Install Window Guards to Prevent Children From Falling

Window guards are metal or aluminum devices that are specifically designed to prevent children from falling. Guards should be in every window in the apartment and in common areas, except for windows leading to fire escapes. In buildings with fire escapes, the window guard must be left off one window in each ground-floor unit so that the window can be used as an emergency exit. In 2019, there were 11 falls among children 10 years of age or younger; four died after falling from a window that did not have a properly installed window guard.

- Never leave a child alone in a room where there are open windows that do not have window guards.
- If window guards are not installed, keep windows closed and make sure children cannot climb up to them.
- Carefully check window guards periodically to ensure that they are secure.
- If a window has an air conditioner, it must be permanently and securely installed with one-way metal screws to prevent any falls. Never place a bed, chair or other object onto which children can climb in front of a window.
- Keep children off balconies and terraces if they are not being closely supervised by an adult by locking doors to those areas.
- Never let children play near elevator shafts or on fire escapes, balconies, terraces or rooftops. Don't let them play unsupervised in building hallways that have unguarded windows.
- Screens are not a substitute for window guards.
- Call 311 to report unguarded hallway windows.

For more information about approved window guards and proper installation visit nyc.gov/health.

Look Before You Lock: Never Leave a Child Unattended in a Car

Parents should always check the backseat of the car before leaving and locking a vehicle. Even if a child is sleeping and a parent is running a quick errand, they should take the child out of the car to ensure the child is safe. During summer months, especially, vehicles can reach over 100 degrees Fahrenheit which could be fatal for small children as their bodies heat up three times faster than an adult's does, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, heat stroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths in children under 15. Infants and children up to 4 years of age are at the greatest risk for heat-related illness, according to the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC).

Keep Kids Cool and Hydrated

In New York City, most heat-related deaths occur after exposure to heat in homes without air conditioners. Parents should make sure to keep children cool and hydrated, make sure they are

drinking plenty of fluids (stay away from really cold drinks or drinks with too much sugar), use an air conditioner if you have one and if possible stay out of the sun.

- Dress infants and children in loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- When in the sun, apply sunscreen to your child (at least SPF 15) and a hat to protect their face and head.
- If you do not have an air conditioner, keep rooms well-ventilated with open windows and fans. Fans work best at night when they can bring in cooler air from outside.

Prevent Accidental Drownings

Portable pools vary in size and height, from tiny blow-up pools to larger designs that hold thousands of gallons of water. They are easy to use, affordable and fun for the family. But portable pools can be deadly and present a real danger to young children. According to the Center for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC), drowning is the number one cause of accidental deaths of children between the ages 1 and 4 and most drownings occur in home swimming pools.

- Empty and put away smaller portable pools after every use.
- Once the pool is set up, ensure high levels of supervision.
- Cover larger portable pools and put access ladders away when adults are not present.
- Install alarms on doors leading from the house to the pool area that will alert you when someone enters the pool area.
- Teach children to swim, float and other basic life-saving skills; do not consider young children “drown-proof” because they have had swimming lessons.
- Never go into the water alone – always have an adult and/or parent watching.
- Learn how to swim.
- Never play or swim near drains or suction outlets in pools and spas.
- Never swim in a pool or hot tub that has a broken, loose or missing drain cover.
- Learn water safety skills and other life saving techniques.

For more information about pool safety, visit www.poolsafely.gov.

Practice Safe Sleep

All year round, ACS asks parents of infants to practice safe sleep and reminds everyone about the **ABC** of Safe Sleep. Infants should sleep **A**lone, on their **B**acks, in a safety-approved **C**rib.

- Avoid bringing the baby into bed with you. A baby must never sleep in an adult bed, on a couch or on a chair with anyone. Babies may suffocate if another person accidentally rolls on top of them or covers their nose and/or mouth.
- Keep soft objects, loose bedding, or any other items that could increase the risk of suffocation out of the baby’s sleep area.
- Place babies on their backs to sleep. Babies breathe better on their backs than on their stomachs or sides
- Put babies to bed in a flat, firm sleep surface with a fitted sheet made for that specific product. Though it might seem more comfortable to put a pillow on top of the mattress, babies may suffocate on the soft surface.

For infant safe sleep best practices or resources in your community, visit: www.nyc.gov/safesleep or call 311 and ask for Safe Sleep.

Avoid Personal Use of Fireworks in New York City

In New York City, all consumer fireworks are illegal to use, buy, sell or transport. Sparklers are considered fireworks. Fireworks can be very dangerous and lead to serious injury or even death, for both children and adults.

- Call 911 to report illegal fireworks sale or use in progress or people storing large amounts of firework.
- You can call 311 for assistance in making a firework complaint or visit the [NYC311](http://www.nyc.gov/nyc311) website to report past or chronic firework use or sale.
- Please remind your children about the dangers of fireworks.

###