

Press Release



Greene County Public Health
A Safe Communities Grantee of Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio State Highway Patrol-Traffic Safety Division
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Thankful for Seat Belt Safety: *Buckle Up — Every Trip. Every Time.*

XENIA, OH — This Thanksgiving holiday, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is joining the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition, part of Greene County Public Health (GCPH), to share an important lifesaving reminder: *Buckle Up — Every Trip. Every Time.* Because the Thanksgiving holiday is one of the busiest seasons for America's roads, more drivers will be on the roads than usual, increasing the likelihood of a motor vehicle crash. During this kickoff to the holiday season, it's more important than ever to stress the importance of seat belt safety.

During the 2018 Thanksgiving weekend (6 p.m. Wednesday, November 21, to 5:59 a.m. Monday, November 26), 291 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes nationwide. Nighttime proved even more deadly, with 54% of Thanksgiving weekend crashes occurring at night. These deaths represent needless tragedies for families across America and may have been prevented with the simple click of a seat belt.

"Thanksgiving is a time for celebrating gratitude with loved ones, and we want to make sure our community members arrive at their Thanksgiving destinations as safely as possible," said Jillian Drew, Health Educator and Safe Communities Coordinator at GCPH. "Whether you're driving 10 minutes to the Thanksgiving dinner table, or 10 hours, it's critical that drivers and passengers *Buckle Up — Every Trip. Every Time.* We want everyone to have a safe and happy Thanksgiving, so please, make sure everyone in your vehicle is buckled before you ever turn on the car — and that includes children being in the correct car seats, too," she said.

For more information about traveling safely this Thanksgiving, please visit <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/seat-belts/buckle/thanksgiving-weekend>. For more information on the Greene County Safe Communities Coalition, call 937-374-5683 or email jdrew@gcph.info.

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