



**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Mexico Department of Transportation Sponsors Statewide Child Safety Seat Clinics**

**Santa Fe, NM** – The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) is pleased to sponsor the annual statewide child safety seat clinics on Saturday, September 29, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The clinics will take place in five cities and six different locations as part of National Child Passenger Safety Week Seat Check Saturday.

“The NMDOT is pleased to participate in this national traffic safety initiative and to offer this valuable service,” said NMDOT Cabinet Secretary Tom Church. “Through education, advocacy, and community outreach efforts such as this that we can help keep New Mexico families safer on our roads.”

The clinics are held on a first-come, first-served basis and are free and open to the public.

“Three out of four car seats are installed and used incorrectly,” said Franklin Garcia, Director of the NMDOT Traffic Safety Division. “Through these clinics, parents and caregivers are given the opportunity to play a hands-on role in the safety of their children. Our goal is to ensure children – and all vehicle occupants – are properly buckled and leave safer than when they arrived. Just a few minutes can help save your child’s life.”

According to the NHTSA, motor vehicle-related injuries remain a leading cause of death for children ages 15 and younger. Using child safety seats decreases the risk of death by an estimated 71 percent for rear-facing infants and 54 percent for older, forward-facing children. Additionally, belt-positioning booster seats reduce the likelihood of significant injury for 4 to 8 year-old children over the use of seat belts alone.

At the statewide event, parents and caregivers will spend approximately 30 minutes per seat working directly with a certified child passenger safety technician. During each seat check, technicians will provide education about the proper selection, installation, and use of child safety seats. To ensure the best possible fit, parents and caregivers should bring their child safety seat, and if possible, the child.



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The clinics are a public service provided by the NMDOT's Traffic Safety Division and Safer New Mexico Now. Statewide child safety seat clinics will be held at the following locations:

- **Albuquerque North:**  
Kohl's, 6800 Holly Ave. NE
- **Albuquerque West:**  
Kohl's, 3715 Ellison Rd. NW
- **Artesia:**  
Walmart, 604 N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street
- **Farmington:**  
San Juan Plaza, 3030 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Hobby Lobby parking lot
- **Las Cruces:**  
Kohl's, 2500 North Triviz Dr.
- **Santa Fe:**  
JC Penny Parking Lot, 4250 Cerrillos Rd.

For more information about National Child Passenger Safety Week and National Seat Check Saturday, or for other child passenger safety information, call 800-231-6145 or visit [www.safernm.org](http://www.safernm.org).

For more information about the New Mexico Department of Transportation, visit [www.dot.state.nm.us](http://www.dot.state.nm.us).

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