

Toy Safety Buying Tips



Christmas is a time especially for children, and for children this means toys. Each year, more than 3 billion toys and games are sold in the United States with 65 percent of these sales occurring between Thanksgiving and the day before Christmas. Although toys are fun and educational, they can be dangerous. Poorly designed and constructed toys, or toys that are inappropriate for your child’s level of development can cause serious injury, and in some cases, death.

Richland Public Health and Safe Kids USA offer the following tips and suggestions:

- If there is an age warning, stick to the recommendation. Do not buy “older” toys for young children.
- Remember that young children may be especially vulnerable to choking on small parts and toys containing these should be avoided when buying for this group.

There are various things you can check on the toy:

- sharp edges or hidden spikes
- loose facial features, wheels, tires and other small parts: These should be securely fixed to the toy
- secure seams: if the stuffing is accessible, a child could choke on it
- any cord on a pull along toy should be at least 1.5 mm thick
- any holes or gaps into which children could put their fingers and suffer harm from the mechanical parts inside
- brittle plastic which could shatter into small sharp pieces
- folding mechanisms: How much damage would they do if a child’s finger were caught in them?

Richland Public Health cautions that items with painted surfaces may contain lead paint. Consumers should sign up to receive products recalls with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.cpsc.gov). For questions or concerns about lead paint in toys, call Environmental Health at Richland Public Health, 419-774-4520.



Holiday Hours in December

Richland Public Health is open for Environmental Health business and Birth and Death Certificates from 8 am to 4 pm Monday-Friday. Both WIC and the Public Health Clinic are open by appointment. Please call other Divisions by phone if you have questions.

Richland Public Health will be closed all day on Friday, December 24 for the Christmas holiday. We will be open December 27–30 and be closed all day on Friday, December 31, for the New Year’s holiday.

“Calm mind brings inner strength and self-confidence, so that’s very important for good health.” Dalai Lama

The Richland Public Health “Health Report” is a monthly production of Community Health & Prevention Sciences. Suggestions and corrections, including mailing label corrections, are welcome. Call Shannon Nelson, CHPS Coordinator, at 419-774-4761 or email snelson@richlandhealth.org

VITAL STATISTICS

The Vital Statistics division maintains records of all births and deaths in Richland County since 1908. For information on obtaining a birth or death certificate, check the website at richlandhealth.org or call 419-774-4500.

	October	YTD
Total Births (all ages)	113	1175
Births to Teens	12	78
Repeat Births*	64	738
October . . YTD		
Total Deaths	180	1364
Female	87	654
Male	93	710
Causes of Death		
Heart Related	39	400
Cancer	22	203
COVID-19 (coronavirus)	41	204
Alzheimers/Dementia	21	105
Accidents (drugs/falls/crashes)	5	81
Lung Diseases	7	74
Strokes/CVA	11	51
Renal/Kidney	7	49
Flu/Pneumonia	6	28
Suicides	2	14
Homicides	0	6
Infant Mortality (see below)	1	3
Other (not listed above)	3	104
Deaths Pending Autopsy	11	22

*repeat births = 2nd or more live births
Birth & Death statistics include City of Shelby

Infant Mortality: Richland County

October: 1 **Year To Date: 3**
Infant mortality is defined as the death of a baby before his or her first birthday. Infant deaths are considered an important indicator of the overall health of a society. Deaths to residents occurring outside of Richland County are not reflected in county death statistics. **KNOW the SAFE SLEEP ABC’s: Alone, on Back, in a Crib.**

CALLING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Main Number	419-774-4500
Environmental Health	419-774-4520
Public Health Nursing	419-774-4540
Public Health Clinic	419-774-4700
Health & Prevention Sciences	419-774-4761
WIC	419-774-4560

Richland Public Health is an equal opportunity employer/provider of services.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GET YOUR COVID-19 OR FLU VACCINE
Call 419-774-4700 for an appointment.



555 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44907

