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OHIO BOOSTER SEAT LAW WILL TAKE EFFECT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2010.

Who: Children younger than 8 or shorter than 4 feet and 9 inches will be expected to use a booster seat while riding in a car. Full enforcement will begin April 7, 2010. The first offense is a minor misdemeanor with fines ranging from \$25 to \$75 per violation. Children younger than 4 or who weigh less than 40 pounds are still expected to sit in appropriate child restraint. Another addition to the Ohio Revised Code is that children older than 8 and younger than 15 who are not in a child restraint must use the vehicle's seat belt. A child restraint violation is a secondary offense similar to that of a seat belt violation.

What: Change in Ohio's Child Passenger Safety Law (Ohio Revised Code 4511.81)

When: Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Where: State-wide

Why: According to the Ohio Department of Health: "at least 34 Ohio children between 4 and 7 died in motor vehicle traffic crashes between 1999 and 2006 and traffic is the leading cause of death for this age group. In 2007, only 18 percent of Ohio children ages 4 to 8 used a booster."

Always make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for the child restraint regarding weight limits and proper use. To determine the appropriate child restraint, choose one that fits your child, vehicle, budget, and is easy to use. If you have questions for or would like to have your child restraint checked by a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, please call the Licking County Health Department at 740-349-6535.