

Announcements

National Teen Driver Safety Week — October 16–22, 2016

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States. In 2014, a total of 2,450 teens and young adults aged 15–19 years died in motor vehicle crashes, and approximately 288,000 were treated in emergency departments or hospitalized for injuries (1). In the last decade, motor vehicle crash deaths and injuries among teens decreased significantly (1); however, projections for 2015 data indicate a 10% increase in fatalities among persons aged 15–20 years (2).

The 2016 National Teen Driver Safety Week will be observed October 16–22, 2016. This year's theme, "Talk to Your Teen About the '5 to Drive,'" encourages families to agree upon the rules to address driving risks for teens, including alcohol use, not using seat belts, distracted driving, speeding, and teen passengers (3).

According to teens, parents can have the most influence on driving habits by demonstrating skills and setting limits (4). Parent-imposed rules and limits can reduce the risk for teens being involved in a crash or other negative driving outcomes (4,5). Online resources are available to help parents in supervising their new driver and monitoring and reinforcing the "rules of the road" as their teen begins driving independently. A Parent-Teen Driving Agreement (<http://www.cdc.gov/parentsarethekey/parents>) puts these rules in writing to set clear expectations and limits.

Additional information on National Teen Driver Safety Week available at <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/teens>.

Additional information on safe teen driving is available at the following websites: http://www.cdc.gov/MotorVehicleSafety/Teen_Drivers/teendrivers_factsheet.html; <http://www.cdc.gov/parentsarethekey/danger/index.html>; <http://www.teen-driversource.org/>; and <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Teen+Drivers>.

References

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Global Handwashing Day — October 15, 2016

October 15, 2016, marks Global Handwashing Day. This observance increases awareness and understanding of the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable means of preventing disease around the world.

Handwashing with soap plays an important role in child survival and health. An estimated 1.8 million children aged <5 years die each year from diarrheal diseases and pneumonia, the top two causes of death among young children worldwide (1). Handwashing with soap can reduce the incidence of diarrhea among this age group by approximately 30% (2) and respiratory infections by approximately 20% (3).

Although water is commonly used to wash hands, because of the limited availability of soap in developing countries, many persons do not use soap for handwashing. Even when soap is available, it is often used primarily for laundry and bathing rather than handwashing. Washing hands with soap effectively removes bacteria (4).

Additional information on handwashing and Global Handwashing Day is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing>. Information on water-related hygiene is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene>.

References

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