



Jeb Bush  
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.  
Secretary

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**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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Wednesday, September 08, 2004

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## September is Baby Safety Month

### **Baby safety is everyone's job**

While baby and child safety should always be first and foremost with parents, caregivers and anyone who comes in contact with youngsters, one month out of the year – September – is dedicated to promoting infant and child safety. In honor of this month, here are some reminders for baby safety:

- Children under five can easily choke on food items such as popcorn, hot dogs, raisins, nuts, grapes, raw carrots, ice cubes, chunky peanut butter and chunks of meat. Don't leave a toddler alone to eat.
- Check your child's stroller. If it's collapsible, make sure the latches are secure before putting baby in. Be sure to use the safety strap to make sure baby is secure in the stroller. Don't hang overloaded or heavy bags on the stroller's handle, as this may cause it to tip over.
- Never leave your baby unattended in the bathtub. And remember, a child can drown in less than a half-inch inch of water.
- Check the cords on your draperies and mini-blinds. Tie the cords up or cut them off. Keep them out of children's reach.
- Protect baby from the sun and heat. Babies overheat easily, and an infant who spends too much time in the sun or heat can become extremely ill. Guard your baby's skin from the harmful rays of the sun by applying sunscreen and making sure your baby is appropriately dressed for the outdoors.
- Never allow children to have access to a swimming pool without constant adult supervision. A child can quickly drown in as little as 1" of water. Make sure your pool is secure and child-proof.
- Take a good look at your baby's crib. Remove pillows, stuffed toys, quilts and other soft items. Make sure the crib is not located near windows, electrical outlets or lamps.
- Use this month to check smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and to update your first aid kit.

For more baby safety tips, contact the Pinellas County Health Department at (727)824-6900 or visit: [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov) (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration); [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) (American Red Cross); [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) (American Association of Pediatrics); [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) (Consumer Product Safety Commission).

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*The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of residents and visitors through public and private community efforts.*