

# NEW LAW - Rear Facing Car Seats

## *Why are we concerned about children using rear facing car seats?*

Each year, thousands of young children are killed or injured in car crashes. Children under the age of two are five times less likely to die or to be seriously injured if they ride in a rear facing car seat.

## *What does the new rear facing safety seat law require?*

The new law states that “children must be restrained in a rear facing car seat until they reach the age of two.” This law goes into effect on July 1, 2019.



## *Why do we have this new law?*

Children under the age of two are not strong enough to withstand a car crash because their bodies are still developing. A rear facing child car seat supports their entire head, neck, and back. It cradles and moves with the child to reduce stress on their neck and spinal cord to prevent serious injuries.

## *How long should children use rear facing car seats?*

Keep your child in a rear facing car seat as long as possible, until they reach the highest weight and height limit for that seat. Check the sticker found on the side or back of the car seat for the exact limits as they may differ.

*For more information go to:* [www.vdh.virginia.gov/child-passenger-safety](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/child-passenger-safety)



6/19

**Health**  **Whys**  
A public health message from  
[www.tjhd.org](http://www.tjhd.org)

Follow us on  
Facebook

