



Erie County Health Department
An Accredited Public Health Department
Erie County Community Health Center
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Peter T. Schade, MPH, REHS
Health Commissioner



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Erie County Health Department Equips All School Buses with Advanced Trauma Rucksacks

Sandusky, OH, March 4, 2025 – The Erie County Health Department (ECHD) today announced the successful distribution of advanced .511 trauma rucksacks to school districts in Erie County. These comprehensive medical kits are designed to be placed directly on school buses, ensuring essential trauma care supplies are immediately available for emergency situations involving students, vehicle accidents, or when bus personnel encounter an accident scene on the road.

The initiative, led by the ECHD, has provided nearly 200 specialized kits which are equipped to handle severe bleeds and other critical injuries free of charge to all local schools. This vital resource eliminates a significant financial burden, as the cost for specialized, high-quality materials such as these is often prohibitive for districts operating with limited budgets and staffing.

Sarah Williamson, Public Health Educator for the ECHD and the project director for this distribution, emphasized the commitment to student safety. “The safety of our students is always the highest priority, and transportation staff are often the first, and sometimes only, line of defense in an emergency on the road,” said Williamson. “While we fervently hope these trauma bags are never needed, placing high-grade, immediate-response equipment directly on every bus ensures our drivers and aides are prepared. This project, made possible through critical grant funding, exemplifies the Health Department’s dedication to providing resources to schools that they simply cannot budget for on their own.”

Bags will be provided to Sandusky Career Center, Margaretta Local Schools, North Point Educational Service Center, Perkins Local Schools, Sandusky City Schools, Townsend Community School, Vermilion Local Schools, EHOVE Career Center, and Edison Local Schools. Each bag includes trauma dressings, glucose, antiseptic agents, masks, breathing apparatus, bandages, a stethoscope, and much more.

The distribution was made possible, in part, through grant funding secured by the ECHD via the federal CARA/First Responders Grant Program. This successful effort is just one example of the robust health and safety services the Erie County Health Department provides to local school systems, continually seeking avenues to bolster student and staff well-being beyond standard public health services.

About the Erie County Health Department

The Erie County Health Department’s mission is to promote and improve the health and safety of the communities and environment within Erie County while preventing disease through essential public health services. ECHD operates the Erie County Community Health Center, the Erie County Detox, Kaptur Rogowski House, and Compass Point. For more information about Health Department or Health Center services, visit www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com.

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