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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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MDHHS launches statewide map to expand access to free gun locks and promote safe firearm storage

New tool helps Michigan residents locate nearby gun lock distribution sites

LANSING, Mich. — The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) today announced the launch of a new statewide Gun Lock Distribution Map, a tool designed to help residents easily locate free firearm safety devices and expand access to safe storage resources across Michigan.

The interactive map identifies 150 locations across Michigan where individuals can obtain free cable-style gun locks and provides an opportunity for community organizations, health departments and other partners to request supplies to distribute locally. By expanding the number of distribution sites across the state, MDHHS aims to make it easier for Michigan residents to take simple steps that help prevent firearm injuries and deaths.

“Safe firearm storage is one of the most effective ways to prevent tragedies such as unintentional shootings, youth access to firearms and suicide,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “By expanding access to free gun locks and making it easier for people to find them in their communities, we are helping Michigan families take practical steps to protect themselves and those around them.”

Free gun locks distributed through the program are provided by the Michigan State Police (MSP) and purchased through Project ChildSafe, a nationwide firearm safety initiative. Gun locks have been available for several years at MSP Posts statewide and from local law enforcement agencies, county offices and health departments. This new map expands the program by connecting additional community partners with supplies and making distribution locations easier for the public to find.

“If you have a firearm in your home, it is your responsibility to store it properly, away from minors – it’s the law,” said Col. James F. Grady II, director of the MSP. “An interactive tool like this map makes it easier than ever to obtain a free gun lock that can be used to safely store a firearm in your home and most importantly, potentially save a life. Please visit an MSP Post, your local police department or any MDHHS office to obtain a free gun lock.”

Safe storage plays an important role in reducing firearm injuries and deaths, particularly among children and teens.

“Firearm injury is a public health issue that affects communities across our state,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “Safe storage – keeping firearms locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition – is a simple step that can prevent unintentional shootings, reduce youth access to firearms and reduce the risk of firearm suicide. Expanding access to free gun locks helps empower communities and families to make safer choices.”

Community organizations, health care providers, local governments and other partners interested in becoming distribution sites can request gun locks by completing a brief survey online to be added to the map. Once approved, locks will be shipped directly to participating sites.

To find a free gun lock near you or request supplies for your organization, visit the MDHHS Secure Storage Law webpage. Gun lock installation instructions are included within the product’s packaging and available on the Project ChildSafe website.

For more information about secure storage, visit the MDHHS website. For tips on how to start conversations with friends, family and neighbors about secure storage, download “The Talk” flyer.

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