



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 8, 2014

**CONTACT:** Guillermo Cole  
Public Information Officer  
412-578-8004  
[gcole@achd.net](mailto:gcole@achd.net)

### **Health Department Offers Back-to-School Traffic Safety Precautions**

**PITTSBURGH** – The Allegheny County Health Department is urging motorists to make sure they are alert and aware as roadways and sidewalks are filled once again with children and adults making their way to school.

“Everyone can play a part in keeping our children safe. Keep an eye out for children who run into the street or for vehicles that make frequent stops. It could save a life,” said Health Director Dr. Karen Hacker.

A number of school districts in Allegheny County are walking-only districts, so motorists need to stay alert for additional pedestrians on sidewalks and along roadways. Generally, pedestrians have the right of way at all intersections. Drivers should be careful not to block a cross-walk, forcing a pedestrian to leave this safety zone and into moving traffic. Also, be sure to pay attention to crossing guards, who are there for the safety of pedestrians and motorists.

School buses are another addition to roadways this time of year. The buses are equipped with a series of lights to alert their intentions to motorists and students. When a bus’ red lights are on, traffic is to stop in both directions to allow for the safest possible loading and unloading of students. Most of the children killed in bus-related crashes are four-to-seven years of age and are hit by a bus or motorist passing illegally.

Parents are also urged to educate their children about the safety hazards associated with school buses or waiting at a bus stop. There is a 10-foot area around the entire bus that is essentially a blind spot, and is not safe for children. Even if a bus is stopped, the area is not safe because a driver’s inability to see a child could end tragically.

**###**

KAREN A. HACKER, MD, MPH, DIRECTOR  
**ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**  
955 RIVERMONT DRIVE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15207  
PHONE (412) 578-8004 • FAX (412) 578-8325 • [WWW.ACHD.NET](http://WWW.ACHD.NET)

