



KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

## Department of Health

JAMES V. McDONALD, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, M.S.  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 2, 2025

Dear Director of Maternity & Newborn Services:

*Public Health Law § 2803-j(6)* requires that every hospital and birth center in New York State provide every new parent the option to view the video *Take Steps to Prevent Infant and Childhood Drowning*. Please provide and have new parents complete the *Take Steps to Prevent Infant and Childhood Drowning Parent Signature Form* indicating that have they have either viewed or declined to view this video. The video and drowning prevention resources are at [Drowning Prevention & Water Safety for Children and Teens \(ny.gov\)](https://www.health.ny.gov/drowning-prevention/).

Drowning is a leading cause of death for children one to four years of age. It can happen quickly and silently. In addition, each year hundreds of New Yorkers drown or are hospitalized for severe nonfatal drowning injuries. This video explains the dangers of drowning for infants and young children and steps that parents and caregivers should take to prevent drownings.

*Take Steps to Prevent Infant and Childhood Drowning* was developed by the New York State Department of Health, the United States Swim School Association, and the New York State Water Safety Coalition with information from the American Academy of Pediatrics and a special thanks to the Rees Specht Life Foundation.

Thank you for your care and concern for newborn children and your effort to provide this important resource to new parents. If you have any questions about the video or compliance with the law, please contact the Bureau of Injury Prevention at (518) 402-0079 or email [injury@health.ny.gov](mailto:injury@health.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael Bauer, MS  
Director, Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention