

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OXIRIS BARBOT, M.D., Commissioner  
1001 E. Fayette Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

November 1, 2012

Citywide Alert Regarding Infant Sleep-related Death

During the month of October, **three infants** in Baltimore have died a sleep-related death. These deaths can be **prevented** by sleeping babies safely—Alone, on their Backs, in a safe Crib.

The ABC's of Safe Sleep, **Alone, Back, Crib**, have been a major focus of our B'more for Healthy Babies initiative to improve birth outcomes. Since the debut of our SLEEP SAFE video in 2009, infant sleep-related deaths have fallen to less than 2 per month. Program evaluation demonstrates that **viewing the video and receiving safe sleep education** from providers have resulted in **more babies sleeping in a safe environment**.

I urge all hospital staff, home visiting programs, and other providers who care for infants and provide services to young families to step up safe sleep education, and use the SLEEP SAFE video as a powerful educational tool. To arrange a safe sleep training or for more information, please contact Dr. Stephanie Regenold at 410-396-3769 or [stephanie.regenold@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:stephanie.regenold@baltimorecity.gov).

Thank you for your efforts to reduce preventable infant deaths in Baltimore.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Oxiris Barbot, M.D." in a cursive style.

Oxiris Barbot, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health

