



American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association

Brett Robinson, Executive Director

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The American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA) is the professional association which represents traffic safety educators throughout the United States and abroad.

MEMORANDUM

TO: ADTSEA Membership, ADTSEA State Associations and State Driver Education Administrators

FROM: Brett Robinson, ADTSEA Executive Director

DATE: April 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Tips for COVID-19 Management Within Driver Education

Tips for COVID-19 Management and Risk Minimization within Driver Education

When we get back to some normalcy, administering and conducting driver education courses will likely not be the same as before. While we must be prudent today to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, we must also be vigilant in the future to reduce the possibility of a second wave. ADTSEA offers the following tips:

General Tips for Driver Education

- Proactively and confidentially request that students and parents/guardians with signs of a fever, coughing and/or shortness of breath to stay home. Anyone exhibiting symptoms should be confidentially asked to return home.
- As always, avoid physical contact with students and parents/guardians.
 - During these times students and parents/guardians may be hyper-sensitive to handshakes.
 - Thus, do not extend your hands or elbows to welcome them.
- Do not joke about the COVID-19 virus. You don't know if one of your students or parents/guardians knows someone with the virus. Keep it serious if the topic comes up.
- Keep "social distancing" at all times with both students and parents/guardians.
- Have available for you, your students, parents/guardians in both the classroom and instruction vehicles:
 - sanitizing wipes, and
 - alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Consider the liability issues.
- Programs are encouraged to consider a more flexible policy for rescheduling students.
- Do not conduct classes or BTW lessons if these or the following tips/conditions cannot be met.
- Consider the liability issues.
- Programs are encouraged to consider a flexible policy for rescheduling students.

Classroom Tips for Driver Education

- Keep "social distancing" between students when teaching in the classroom.
 - Limit the number of students to allow you to maintain social distancing.

- Keep a minimum of 6 ft. or more between students, as recommended by the CDC to both the sides and forward/backward between rows.
- Encourage frequent bathroom breaks for proper handwashing.
- Wipe down tables, door handles, restroom door handles, sink handles, student and instructor materials, etc. (everything) regularly and especially before and after classes.

Consider Alternative Methods of Delivery

- Consider a mix of the follow alternative delivery methods:
 - Virtual classroom sessions utilizing the many technology platforms available.
 - Robust eLearning platforms (Note: a website with files does not constitute eLearning)
 - Computer-based learning approaches.
 - Individual student activities and assignments (do not assign groups to activities).
 - Parent/guardian-led activities and assignments.
- A mix of these methods can be a good alternative to traditional classrooms, and most have been proven to be effective in the educational process.

Behind-the-Wheel Tips for Driver Education

- Require students to wash hands before and after BTW driving sessions.
- Before and after each individual BTW driving lesson, thoroughly clean the following with alcohol-based cleaning products:
 - steering wheels and steering column controls,
 - dashboard controls,
 - seats, seatbelts,
 - gearshifts, keys,
 - etc. (everything).
- Encourage frequent bathroom breaks for proper handwashing.
- It is difficult to practice social distancing when conducting BTW.
 - Consider that it is difficult to keep a minimum of 6 feet or more between the student driver and the instructor in a vehicle that makes up a closed-in environment.
 - Avoid additional students in the car for observation time.
 - Examine how the parent/guardian may, with proper guidance, provide the hours of BTW instruction.
- Consider the liability issues for conducting BTW lessons with the current pandemic.

Keeping Up-to-Date

- Know the protocols of your state agency.
- Seek approval from your state agency prior to conducting any training.
- Check frequently for updates from local, state and federal government agencies/organizations.
- Additional information can be obtained from the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO), including steps to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- As always, the health, safety and well-being of instructors and the community comes first!

How we manage driver education courses today and, in the future, will have a large impact on the health of instructors, students and the community. By being proactive, we can manage the risks today and in the future.

cc: William Van Tassel, President, ADTSEA
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