How Driver Education Has Responded During COVID-19

Brett Robinson
July 19, 2020
ADTSEA 2020 Virtual Conference
Presentation Topics

• Status of State Programs
• Initiatives by the Association of National Stakeholders in Traffic Safety Education (ANSTSE)
• The Role Virtual Training will Play in the Future
• Initiatives by ADTSEA
• ADTSEA Tips for Driver Educators
Status of State Programs
Greatest Challenges Facing the States During COVID-19

As of April 28, 2020

What are the greatest challenges your State is currently faced with? Top 2 Responses

- BTW: 95%
- Test(ing): 75%

Words shared by Respondents
- BTW
- Test(ing)
Status of State Programs

Behind-the-Wheel Training

As of April 28, 2020

Were there any States conducting BTW in April 2020?

- Yes 9%
- No 82%
- Unknown 9%

Yes  No  Unknown
Status of State Programs
Behind-the-Wheel Training

As of July 18, 2020

Are there any States conducting BTW at the present time?

- Yes: 77%
- No: 16%
- Unknown: 7%

Yes
No
Unknown
Status of State Programs

Third-Party Testing

As of April 28, 2020 Does your state allow driver educators to conduct the DMV road test (third party testing)?

[Prior to pandemic]

<table>
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<tr>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<td>41%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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Yes  No
## Status of State Programs

### Third-Party Testing for Skills Test

As of May 11, 2020 the following States utilize third party testers for noncommercial skills testing:

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<td>16.</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
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## Status of State Programs

### Third-Party Testing for Knowledge Test

As of May 11, 2020 the following States utilize third party testers for noncommercial knowledge testing:

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<td>New York</td>
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## Status of State Programs

### DL Skills Testing with Driver Education

As of May 11, 2020 the following States provide a waiver from additional skills testing for completion of driver education:

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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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Status of State Programs
DL Knowledge Testing with Driver Education

As of May 11, 2020 the following States provide a waiver from additional knowledge testing for completion of driver education:

1. Arizona
2. Kansas
3. Louisiana
4. Maine
5. Michigan
6. New York
Driver License Testing with Driver Education

- Historically, driver educators have not wanted to give a DMV approved skills test at the end of driver education for licensure.
- Driver education needs to embrace driver license testing for successful completion which could increase the demand for driver education.
- New drivers would rather spend time with a driver educator and get their license if they don’t have to go to the DMV to take their knowledge and skills tests.
Status of State Programs

Comparison Between States who Allowed Online Driver Education Before and During COVID-19 (23 state responses)

**Allowed Online Driver Education Before COVID-19**

- Yes: 39%
- No: 61%

**Allow Online Driver Education During COVID-19**

- Yes: 100%
- No: 0%
Status of State Programs
Professional Development

As of May 28, 2020 States could use assistance in the following areas:

Using the list below, indicate the areas where your State could use assistance from ANSTSE during the COVID-19 outbreak. Check all that apply.

- In-person classroom: 0%
- Online virtual training: 57%
- BTW training: 7%
- Impact of time gap: 36%
- Online secure exam testing: 50%
- Parents role in DE: 36%
- Professional development: 57%
- Split licensing for instructors: 7%
- Other: 21%
Status of State Programs

Availability of Instructors

As of July 18, 2020

Is your State having issues with the availability of instructors? (e.g. instructors not wanting to or able to work because of health/safety reasons)

Yes: 23%
No: 73%
Other State Initiatives

• Allowance for virtual training
• Allowance for eLearning training
• Revitalizing multi-car ranges for substitution on BTW hours
• Revitalizing simulation/computer-based training for substitution of BTW hours
• Exemptions for observation hours
• Engaging parents/guardians more in the training process
• Driver license testing at the end of the driver education course
What ANSTSE Has Done During COVID-19

• Conducted webinars with State administrators:
  o March 20, 2020 – Virtual and e-Learning for Driver Education
  o April 28, 2020 – Open Discussion on Response to COVID-19 and Driver Education
What ANSTSE Has Done During COVID-19

• Recorded virtual demonstrations:
  o April 8, 2020 – Virtual Training Tutorial for Driver Education
    - Purpose, Objectives and Overview
    - How Zoom System Works
    - Live Demo of Zoom System
    - Google Classroom and Kahoot!
    - Foundational Guidelines
    - Demonstrations of Breakout Rooms
    - Virtual Training Demonstrations
    - Visit [www.anstse.info](http://www.anstse.info) under News
ANSTSE Virtual Training Tutorial for Driver Education

On April 8, 2020 ANSTSE conducted and recorded a webinar titled Virtual Training Tutorial for Driver Education. The purpose of the webinar was to provide information and examples to State Administrators, State and Regional Associations, schools and educators for conducting driver education classroom training via virtual and distance learning platforms.

ANSTSE does not endorse the platforms or programs covered in these recordings.

It is not possible to cover all platforms; however, there are many similarities between the many platforms available. They are discussed as possible alternatives for each program or educator to consider.

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<td>Part 1: Purpose, Objectives and Overview</td>
<td>Part 2B: Live Demo of Zoom System</td>
<td>Part 4: Foundational Guidelines</td>
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| Demonstration of Breakout Rooms | Virtual Training Demonstration |
What ANSTSE Has Done During COVID-19

• Obtained resources from States to assist during the pandemic.
• Sent surveys and posed questions to State administrators on issues related to the pandemic.
• Established task groups with subject matter experts to develop guidelines or resources to State administrators, driver education programs and instructors to assist during the pandemic and future emergencies.
  o Behind-the-wheel
  o Testing/assessments
BTW Task Group - Alternatives/Modifications to BTW

- Simulation / Virtual Reality
- Multi-car driving ranges
- Virtual ride-alongs where teen is driving with their parent and using Face Time or Zoom, the instructor sees in real time and helps instruct.
- Video record teen driving with their parent and send to instructor for feedback.
- Provide parent with BTW routes, notes and written evaluations to assist with completing lessons.
- Minimize the time the instructor is speaking in the vehicle by stopping occasionally to speak outside the vehicle to explain a technique/feedback.
BTW Task Group - Availability of Instructors

- Develop a plan to resume instructor training.
- Utilize online instructor training.
- Utilize or develop emergency waivers to become an instructor.
- Reach out to adults already qualified to be driver education teacher but not currently working as a teacher.
- Private sector programs could reach out to public school teachers during the summer.
- Provide hazard pay – extra pay for 60-90 days to gain more interest.
- Have instructors who do not want to return, teach on driving range, not as much contact.
BTW Task Group - Dealing with BTW Backlogs

- Complete the backlog of students who need to finish BTW before teaching any new courses.
- Use a staggered restart. Prioritize those who are almost completed with training.
- Give priority to students that are nearing license requirements and are ready for testing.
- Health screening online or over phone the day before the lesson so if someone is sick do not delay BTW for others.
- Utilize the driving range for strong drivers or drivers to complete their BTW who have already started.
BTW Task Group - Dealing with BTW Backlogs Continued

• Engage parents to complete the basics to prioritize time with the instructor.
• Encourage parents to log driving hours and complete specific maneuvers.
• Develop a plan by calculating how many BTW hours need to be completed, know how many instructors and cars are needed (establish separate groups - morning, afternoon, evening) so cars are constantly moving.
BTW Task Group - Completing Observation Time

• Utilize simulation or virtual reality to augment observation.
• Video record routes and have students answer questions or discuss with instructor.
• Video record (dash/mirror cam) training lessons to prevent liability issues.
• Have students complete a worksheet while their parents are driving.
• Have students complete a worksheet while the instructor is driving, if only 1 student in the vehicle.
• Allow each extra hour of driving to be double the observation time.
Testing/Assessment Task Group – End of Course Knowledge Testing

- Use virtual testing through Google classroom, Google forms, Kahoot, etc.
- Access the test at a certain time frame (Zoom, Google Meet)
- Utilize webcam to make sure the correct person is taking the test.
- Use tools which block other browsers from opening, scan of the room.
- Require program to ask random security questions throughout the course and tests to verify it is the student.
- Parent/guardian proctor final exam at home.
- Schedule appointments for students to complete test one at a time or a small number of students at a time adhering to social distancing.
- Conduct testing outside in parking lots.
Testing/Assessment Task Group – End of Course BTW Testing

• Alternatives, such as simulation and virtual reality could be utilized.
• Utilize a driving range while parent is in the vehicle with the student.
• In-car sessions with one instructor and one student only.
• Virtual BTW testing.
The Role Virtual Training Will Play in the Future

- VIRTUAL training sessions involve the students and instructor interacting real-time, same as a traditional classroom.
- Prior to the pandemic, only half of the States allowed some form of online driver education training.
- During the pandemic, most all States allowed temporary provisions to allow for VIRTUAL training.
- Many States have seen the benefits and successes VIRTUAL training classrooms can provide and MAY allow for continued use in the future.
- VIRTUAL classroom training may be needed as an emergency alternative again in the future.
The Role Virtual Training Will Play in the Future

• Blended instructional delivery methods involves combining two or more delivery methods of instruction that compliment the teaching and learning process.

• VIRTUAL classroom training blended with other delivery methods could become the model.

• Blended with other alternative approaches, including, but not limited to: traditional classroom, eLearning, Google classrooms, virtual reality training and simulation, VIRTUAL classroom training will pay an important role in the future.

• Blended programs may in fact, compliment and enhance the learning process for how teens learn today.
Polling

• You will now answer two (2) polling questions on Virtual Training.

• We will pause to allow you to answer these questions.
What ADTSEA Has Done During COVID-19

• Distributed Memos and Resources through e-mails and e-Newsletters:
  o March 23, 2020 – Response to COVID-19
  o March 27, 2020 – Distance and eLearning Options
  o April 2, 2020 – Tips for COVID-19 Management within Driver Education
  o June 23, 2020 – Updated and Reformatted Tips for COVID-19 Management within Driver Education
What ADTSEA Has Done During COVID-19

• Developed the ADTSEA Emergency Response Action Committee (ERAC)

• Goals are to:
  o Ensure members receive ongoing value from ADTSEA
  o Provide members with opportunities to meet continuing education requirements, whether meeting in person (i.e., the Conference) or virtually
  o Create a contingency plan to protect and ensure the continuation of ADTSEA during future disruptions
  o Update ADTSEA’s governance documents to accommodate future disruptions
What ADTSEA Has Done During COVID-19

• Conducted 2020 ADTSEA Virtual Conference by providing contact hours to meet professional development requirements
• Possible future professional development opportunities
• Continuing to update tips for COVID-19 management within driver education and develop other resources, if needed

Visit [www.adtsea.org](http://www.adtsea.org) and watch your email for eNewsletters
Tips for COVID-19 Management in Driver Education

Disclaimer:
This is not professional medical advice. Should you choose to conduct driver education courses, these tips are offered to driver educators for informational purposes only. The reader is responsible for determining what is appropriate and prudent for their program while following State and Federal guidelines. ADTSEA cannot and will not be held liable for a program or educators’ actions.
As a result of the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak, business will not be business as usual within the foreseeable future. Driver education, naturally, brings individuals into close proximity in the training process.

Note to Reader:
These tips are offered through **July 21, 2020**. Please visit the [ADTSEA Website](http://www.adtsea.org) for updated information.

[www.adtsea.org](http://www.adtsea.org)
Administering and delivering driver education courses will not be the same as before. While we must endeavor today to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, we must also be vigilant in the future to reduce the possibility of additional waves. Practices established today can help to manage and minimize the risks of COVID-19 or similar outbreaks. If you choose to conduct driver education courses, ADTSEA offers the following tips:
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Alternative Methods to Augment BTW Delivery

Keeping Up-to-Date
Tips for All Modes of Driver Education Delivery

State Protocols, Social Distancing, Cleaning, etc.
Tips for All Modes of Driver Education Delivery

- 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.
Proactively and confidentially request that students and parents/guardians who are showing signs of COVID-19 to stay home. Visit the CDC’s List of COVID-19 Symptoms. Provide this list to students and parents/guardians.

Before classroom and BTW instruction begins, consider screening instructors and students for COVID-19 symptoms.

- This could include screening questions, temperature checks, and more.
- See the CDC’s List of COVID-19 Symptoms.
- Anyone exhibiting symptoms should be confidentially asked to return home.
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.

To minimize student congregation:
- Discourage early arrival of students before classroom and BTW sessions begin.
- If possible, have them wait in vehicles.
- Require masks while waiting.
- If they are required to stand in line, designate 6-foot markings on the ground to keep distancing.
- Encourage students to be picked up immediately upon completion of classroom and BTW sessions.
Tips for All Modes of Driver Education Delivery

Continue social distancing and avoid physical contact at all times with both students and parents/guardians.

❖ Do not extend your hands or elbows to greet students or parents/guardians.

In both classroom and instruction vehicles, have the following available for you, your students, and parents/guardians:

❖ sanitizing wipes, and
❖ alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
Tips for All Modes of Driver Education Delivery

- Provide to and require instructors and students to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth.
- Provide and encourage the use of hand sanitizer.
- Conduct shorter lessons so that you reduce the time that the students and instructors are together in the classroom or in the vehicle.
Tips for All Modes of Driver Education Delivery

- Require and encourage students and instructors to report if they develop COVID-19 following lessons (within 2 weeks).
- Consider the liability issues.
- Do not conduct classes or BTW lessons if these or the following tips/conditions cannot be met.
Hygiene Tips for Driver Educators

Washing Hands and Vigilance
Practice good hygiene. It seems obvious, but vigilance can keep you healthy.

Wash hands regularly. For more information, see the World Health Organization’s Clean Your Hands Campaign.

Avoid touching your face. It can be difficult to do, but it is important to minimize contracting the virus though nose and eyes.
Hygiene Tips for Driver Educators

- Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (e.g., face coverings).
- Replace disposable PPE after each use.
- Wash reusable PPE after each use and replace when appropriate.
Classroom Tips for Driver Education

Social Distancing and Cleaning
Classroom Tips for Driver Education

Maintain social distancing between students when teaching in the classroom.

- Keep a minimum of 6 ft. or more between students, as recommended by the CDC, to both the sides and forward/backward between rows.
- Limit number of students per class.

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.

Ensure adequate air circulation and ventilation by opening windows.

Consider the liability issues.
Alternative Methods of Classroom Delivery

Technology-Based, Independent and Parent/Guardian-Led
Consider a mix of the following classroom 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.
Behind-the-Wheel Tips for Driver Education

Social Distancing and Cleaning
Require students to wash hands before and after BTW driving sessions.

Before and after each 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.
Assess the skills of the student prior to lessons to optimize the use of the BTW lesson time (e.g., assess through interviews or via virtual testing).

Create and maintain time and space, as it is difficult to practice social distancing when conducting BTW. Reducing exposure through time (minimizing time in contact) and space (keeping distance):

- Conduct lessons by appointment only to allow for adequate time to clean the vehicles between students.
- 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. No more than one student in the center back seat, if required.

- Use a dash/mirror camera to record cabin interactions between the instructor and student(s) to minimize wrongful act liabilities.

Examine how the parent/guardian, with proper guidance in partnership with the instructor, may provide additional hours of BTW instruction/practice and observational time.
Provide to and require instructors and students to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth.

- Consider clear face coverings to minimize visual obstructions.
- Recognize that both instructors and students may need to speak up more to ensure each is heard through their face covering.

Provide to and encourage regular use of hand sanitizer by instructors and students, especially prior to and after driving. Follow good hand hygiene practices. Visit the CDC’s Handwashing Tips.
Avoid using the air recirculation feature which may increase the spread of the virus.

Ensure adequate ventilation by opening windows, as applicable.

Consider purchasing air filtration systems that adequately filter the entire car cabin, such as:
- NuvoMed Car Air Purifier HEPA Filter
- JVC HEPA Filter Air Purifier
- IQair Atem Car HEPA Filter Air Purifier
While physical barriers keep individuals in small spaces separated, there is no evidence that they, alone, prevent the airborne transmission of COVID-19.

Consider the liability issues involved in conducting BTW lessons during the current pandemic.
Alternative Methods to Augment BTW Delivery

BTW Delivery Methods
Examine how multi-car range instruction may augment BTW instruction, if permitted.

- Ensure social distancing protocols are maintained.
- Instructor remains outside of all vehicles.
- No more than one student per vehicle. Parents may ride with students if desired.
- Use communication devices (e.g., two-way radios) to interact with students.
- Follow cleaning protocols to thoroughly clean the vehicle/equipment prior to and following range instruction.
Examine how driving simulation instruction may augment BTW instruction, if permitted.

- Ensure social distancing protocols are maintained.
- Follow cleaning protocols to thoroughly clean simulators/equipment prior to and following instruction.
Keeping Up-to-Date

Acquiring Information
Additional information can be obtained from the Centers 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!

Note to Reader:
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Updated Tips

How driver education courses are managed today and, in the future, will have a large impact on the health of instructors, students and the community.