



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  
FROM: Brett Robinson, ADTSEA Executive Director  
DATE: March 20, 2020  
SUBJECT: Updated Memorandum on COVID-19

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As the COVID-19 virus continues to spread throughout the U.S., ADTSEA encourages its members to follow local, state and national measures to remain safe and help prevent the spread of the disease. To help ensure the health and safety of our students and the entire community, ADTSEA recommends postponing traditional face-to-face classroom and behind-the-wheel (BTW) driver education operations for the foreseeable future.

This represents a dramatic step in any driver education program's/school's day-to-day operations but taking action now could help reduce the impact of COVID-19.

In the meantime, allowing students to continue their education as new drivers by employing modern, proven distance learning systems might be a safe and appropriate way for students to continue learning the theory (classroom) portion of driver education. ADTSEA recommends that members and state authorities consider alternative delivery methods, including but not limited to:

- 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.

Supporting students in continuing their BTW training is obviously more difficult. To support state authorities in this realm, ADTSEA recommends they explore the possibility of utilizing modern simulation system technologies, at least on a temporary basis. Perhaps states would find today's systems effective to assist in the overall process of training new drivers, without replacing BTW training altogether; all new drivers should still be undergo actual BTW training that meets national standards. ADTSEA will be exploring possible options and will soon provide additional information that states, programs, schools and educators might wish to consider.

ADTSEA offers these tips for its members:

- 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 our members and community comes first!

Thank you for your continued support and interest in ADTSEA.