Tips for COVID-19 Management in Driver Education - UPDATED

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.
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:
Table of Contents – Quick Links

Tips for All Modes of Driver Education Delivery

Hygiene Tips for Driver Educators

Classroom Tips for Driver Education

Alternative Methods of Classroom Delivery

Behind-the-Wheel Tips for Driver Education

Alternative Methods to Augment BTW Delivery

Alternative Methods to Observation Time

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](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html). 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.
- 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.
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.
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
Hygiene Tips for Driver Educators

- 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 through 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.
Classroom Tips for Driver Education

- 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.
- Consider purchasing air filtration systems for the classroom. **NEW**
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.
- Online class management services (e.g., Google Classroom).
- 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.
Minimize the time in the vehicle by stopping the vehicle in a safe place and speaking outside of the vehicle to explain a technique or provide feedback.

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](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/).
Behind-the-Wheel Tips for Driver Education

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.
❖ Use communication devices (e.g., two-way radios) to interact with students.
❖ No more than one student per vehicle. Parents may ride with students if desired.
❖ Follow cleaning protocols to thoroughly clean the vehicle/equipment prior to and following range instruction.
❖ Check with your State agency on allowances for substitution of range hours for BTW hours. **NEW**
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.
Alternative Methods to Observation Time
Examine how virtual reality or simulation may augment observation, if permitted.

- Ensure social distancing protocols are maintained.
- Follow cleaning protocols to thoroughly clean the equipment prior to and following instruction.
- Check with your State agency on allowances for substitution of virtual reality or simulation for observation hours.
❖ Video record routes and have students watch while answering questions or discussing with instructor. Can be done in a virtual training class.

❖ Have students complete a worksheet while their parents/guardian are driving (observing the parent/guardian).
❖ Have students complete a worksheet while the instructor is driving, if only 1 student in the vehicle.
❖ Allow each extra hour of BTW instruction (beyond the minimum BTW hours) to be as double the observation time.
❖ Check with your State agency on allowances for substitution/alternatives of observation hours.
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: These tips are offered through August 31, 2020. Please visit the ADTSEA Website for updated information.
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.