

Driver Education Protocols

Updated July 8, 2020

The corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic has changed how society interacts and daily work is accomplished. To facilitate driver education instruction and minimize exposure for driver education instructors, students and parents, the following processing protocols are established;

Classroom Instruction:

- Always maintain physical distancing of 6 feet, including student seating. In the traditional classroom setting, you must measure for physical distancing and reduce class size accordingly. Also, traditional classroom sessions cannot exceed 3 hours per session. If you choose to use the distance learning option, prior to the final exam, which will take place in the traditional classroom setting, you must measure for physical distancing and reduce class size accordingly. At no time can the gathering size exceed the Executive Order from the Office of the Governor.
- Before traditional classroom instruction begins, screen instructors and students for COVID-19 symptoms. This includes final exam for those using distance learning. If illness is reported or out of state travel, reschedule instruction.
 - * This shall include screening questions from the CDC recommended screening questions.
 - * See the CDC's COVID-19 symptoms information at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).
- For instructors, students and parents, provide and use:
 - * Cloth face coverings that cover the nose and mouth.
 - * Hand sanitizer.
- Ensure instructors and students have access to facilities allowing handwashing. Require instructors and students to thoroughly wash hands before and after each classroom session.
- Maximize airflow in the classroom with open windows and doors to the extent possible.
- Modify classroom exercises to ensure physical distancing among students.
- Prior to and after class, clean and disinfect using the CDC/EPA cleaning guidance you will find at this link. <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/guidance-cleaning-and-disinfecting-public-spaces-workplaces-businesses-schools-and-homes> :
 - * All door handles.
 - * All desks.
 - * All light switches.
 - * Computer keyboard and mouse.
 - * Any other surfaces likely to be touched by instructors or students.
- To minimize student congregation:
 - * Discourage early arrival of students before classroom sessions begin.
 - * Encourage students to be picked up upon completion of classroom sessions.
- Schedule at least 30 minutes between classroom sessions to allow time to thoroughly disinfect the classroom.

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Behind-the-Wheel Instruction

- Execute a plan to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet among students arriving/waiting for behind-the-wheel sessions to start and among those completing sessions.
- Before behind-the-wheel instruction begins, screen instructors and students for COVID-19 symptoms. (If illness is reported or out of state travel, reschedule instruction.)
 - * This shall include screening questions from the CDC recommended screening questions.
 - * See the CDC's COVID-19 symptoms information at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).
- To accommodate implementation of safety measures, the behind the wheel instruction shall be limited to **two** hours and one student per session in the vehicle. Parent may be present for ride-a-long to fulfill parental involvement but must answer screening questions and wear a cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth.
- Require instructors and students to thoroughly wash hands before and after each session.
- For instructors, students, and parents, provide and use:
 - * Cloth face covering that covers the nose and mouth.
 - * Hand sanitizer.
- Windows down to the extent practicable. Avoid using the recirculated air option for the car's ventilation while providing behind-the-wheel instruction. Use the car's vents to bring in fresh outside air and/or lower the vehicle windows.
- Schedule at least 15 minutes between behind-the-wheel sessions to allow time to thoroughly disinfect the training vehicle.
- Before and after each student, clean and disinfect using the CDC/EPA cleaning guidance you will find at this link. <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/guidance-cleaning-and-disinfecting-public-spaces-workplaces-businesses-schools-and-homes>:
 - * All door handles.
 - * All driver and dashboard controls (e.g., switches, dials, buttons).
 - * Keys.
 - * Steering wheel- rim and adjustment levers.
 - * Gear shift lever.
 - * Parking brake lever/button.
 - * Front and rear safety belts, including latching mechanisms.
 - * Center console.
 - * Seats and seat controls.
 - * Head restraints.
 - * Mirror controls.
 - * Any other surfaces likely to be touched by instructors or students.
- To the greatest extent possible, driver education behind the wheel debriefing and certificate issuance, will occur outside the vehicle while maintaining physical distancing in a safe area.