

# Proposal for resuming Driver Education

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# Our NH Driver Educators

About 60 Driver Education schools train roughly 15,000 students per year.

We are mostly small businesses ranging in size from single person operations, to family businesses, to large, multi-location, multi-employee schools, with a few actual High School run programs.

# Driver Education before Covid 19

- 30 hours of classroom time, (up to 2 hour blocks, no more than 3 times per week).
- 10 hours of behind the wheel instruction per student, spread throughout the duration of the classroom sessions.
- 6 hour requirement to observe another student driving.

# Then a pandemic...

Like our public school systems, Driver Education classes were in progress when the Governor's Emergency Orders were declared.

Per the Emergency order #18

- Driver Education classroom time was permitted to continue using a remote platform like our public schools.
- Observation time was allowed to temporarily be completed and certified by a parent.
- All behind the wheel lessons were suspended.

# Driving schools situations vary

- Some shut down completely.
- Some only finished their in-progress classroom sessions using remote platforms.
- Some finished their current classes and have started new classes using only the remote option for classrooms.
- All schools have a backlog of driving hours to complete with their anxious students.
- All are wondering how they will keep their businesses alive long enough to get back to business.

# Public Safety.

NH Driver Education is designed to be a 3 step process.

- Attend a class and learn material
- Attend a drive and be taught that material
- Practice those skills with a parent

By suspending driving until later we have temporarily interrupted that system. It's a sustainable approach for the short term problem, but not a long term solution that will still produce safe drivers.

# Phase 1 - Summary

- Getting back to behind the wheel instruction in as safe a manner as possible.
- Continue parent certified observation.
- Continue remote learning classroom.

# Things to consider and recommend

- Instructors will be responsible for ensuring safe practices as it relates to hygiene, disinfection and illness policies and adhere to the Universal Guidelines as laid out in Stay at Home 2.0
- Instructors and students will wash their hands before entering the car or use hand sanitizer.
- Students will not congregate while waiting to begin a driving lesson. They should stay in their car until the instructor is ready for them and the previous student has left.

# Consider (continued)

- Before each drive, car surfaces will be disinfected to include:
  - Door handles
  - All switches and instruments
  - Steering wheel and steering column adjustments
  - Gear shift, emergency brake and its button/lever
  - Rear view mirror and adjustments
  - Seatbelt straps, buckles and release latches
  - Seat controls, head restraints, fuel door release lever
  - Keys and key fob

# Consider (continued)

- Fresh air should be coming into the car consistently during the drive using open windows, the heater or air conditioning systems.
- Air recirculation should not be turned on.
- Instructors and students will wear a face covering at all times while conducting behind the wheel training.
- Only the student driver and the instructor will be allowed in the car.
- Instructors will allow cleaning time between students.
- Instructors will clean the car while the student watches so they are comfortable they are entering a safe environment.

# Consider (continued)

- Instructors will monitor their own health and cancel drives as needed, if symptoms include:
  - Fever of 100.4 or above.
  - Respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath.
  - Flu-like symptoms such as muscle aches, chills, and severe fatigue.
  - Changes in a person's sense of taste or smell.
- Instructors will monitor their temperature daily before beginning lessons.
- Students will notify instructors as early as possible should they not be able to drive and instructors will have a policy in place for when a student can resume driving if/when they are ill.

# Consider (continued)

- Before each drive, students will be asked the health screening question as outlined in Universal Guidelines
  - Have you returned from international or domestic travel via bus, train or airline within the last 14 days?
  - Have you had contact with anyone with confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
  - Have you had any of the following symptoms in the past 72 hours?
    - Feeling feverish: feeling flushed, having chills, or otherwise like you might have a fever even if your temperature is normal?
    - Cough, sore throat, runny nose/sneezing, or shortness of breath?
    - Two or more of these other signs of illness not due to chronic medical condition: fatigue, muscle aches, joint aches, headache?
    - Loss of taste and smell?

# Phase 2

- Allow the continuation of behind the wheel instruction and parent guided observation.
- Allow the option to either continue remote learning or resume classroom time to match the Governor's restriction on the number of people who can gather socially with the following conditions:
  - Hand sanitizer and wipes must be available.
  - Students will be encouraged to social distance and/or wear face coverings depending on the size of the space.
  - Students will be discouraged from early arrivals.
  - Classroom activities altered as needed for distancing.

# Phase 2

- Before and after class every common surface students/teacher may touch to be disinfected to include:
  - Tables, chairs, desks, door handles,
  - Light switches, computer, mouse,
  - Bathrooms, if possible.

Revisit the restrictions on gatherings, the guidelines regarding the use of face coverings, health screenings and social distancing to coincide with the recommendations from the Governor's Taskforce that is in place at that time.

# Phase 3

Allows for the complete resumption of Driver Education and remove the changes that were made during the Emergency Orders.

- Classroom time for 30 hours.
- Behind the Wheel Instruction of 10 hours
- Observation to return to the Drive Education Program.

# Thank you Taskforce for the work you are doing in the effort to safely reopen NH.

Research for Driver Education included the following sources:

- American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Assoc.
- CDC guidelines
- AAA
- NH Driver Education Teachers Association
- DMV