



ADED

The Association for Driver
Rehabilitation Specialists

ADED Memo: COVID-19

March 23, 2020

As the COVID-19 virus continues to spread throughout the U.S, Canada, and beyond, ADED: The Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists encourages its members to follow local, state/provincial and national measures to remain safe and to do your part to prevent the spread of the disease. To help ensure the health and safety of your clients, students, and the entire community, ADED recommends postponing traditional in-person clinical assessments, classroom sessions, behind-the-wheel (BTW) driver assessment /trainings, while looking into creative options for final vehicle fittings for the foreseeable future.

This represents a dramatic step in any driver rehabilitation program or school's day-to-day operations, but acting now could help reduce the impact of COVID-19. We know many of you have already had to make this tough decision for your program.

Mobility equipment dealers (MED) are considered an essential business because they provide auto service and maintenance. *Please note that these designations vary by region.* Dealers who have remained open to serve the public, aim to continue issuing modified vehicles and wheelchair accessible vans to their customers while following strict COVID-19 protocols. They understand the importance of completing the final fitting with the driver rehabilitation specialist and client prior to releasing the vehicle. Postponing in-person vehicle fittings can cause issues for the client in timely vehicle delivery. ADED recommends that our members work with their local MED to develop a process for in-person final fitting while complying with social distancing. Another option is to consider remote final fitting via on-line video conferencing whereby the MED staff would provide live video using an app such as Facetime, Zoom, WhatsApp, etc. to approve the adaptive equipment installation.

For those members who also work in traditional driver's education with novice, teen drivers, our partners, The American Driver & Traffic Safety Education Association (ADTSEA), recommends allowing students to continue their education as new drivers by employing distance learning systems that might be a safe and appropriate way for students to continue learning the theory (classroom) portion of driver education.

ADED offers these tips for its members:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Know the protocols and current status of your state/province driver's licensing agency and local licensing offices.
- ❖ Check frequently for updates from local, state and federal government agencies/organizations.

As always, the health, safety and well-being of our members and community comes first!

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