Jurisdiction Response to COVID-19

Click here to view consolidated information and see how motor vehicle administrations are handling driver licensing and vehicle registration. This document will be updated with the most current information on our homepage.

Motor Vehicle Industry Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19, a novel (new) coronavirus, was first detected in December of 2019. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it to be a global pandemic. By March 13, COVID-19 was declared a national emergency by President Donald Trump. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has since expanded on the national emergency declaration in the United States to provide HOS relief for commercial vehicle drivers transporting emergency aid.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has encouraged many preventative measures, but local and state government officials and public health departments, in consultation with federal officials, have been tasked with making decisions based on local conditions. Many states have issued stay at home orders. The federal government has taken additional actions to provide up to $2.3 trillion (H.R.748) in loans to support the economy, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was directed to delay the federal REAL ID deadline.

Below are a selection of news articles regarding the effects of coronavirus on the motor vehicle community.

COVID-19 | NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE

- Reckless Driving Increases Nationwide As Highways Unclog
- ATRI Coronavirus Study Shows Truck Activity Spike, Dip in Six States
- Trucking to Play Critical Role in Restarting Economy, ATA’s Chris Spear Says
- Us Auto Sales Recovering During Coronavirus Pandemic but Still Significantly Down, J.D. Power Says
- States Urged to Issue New CDLs

COVID-19 | REGION 1 NEWS COVERAGE

- New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles Extends Closure
- Car Dealerships Can Now Sell Vehicles Online, Following New State Guidance (Pennsylvania)
- Leadfoot or Lightfoot, Driving the Open Roads in a Pandemic (Pennsylvania)

Study Shows Senior Drivers Prefer Watching Videos to
Learn Driver Assistance Technologies (Texas)
Most vehicles today come with their fair share of bells and whistles, ranging from adaptive cruise-control features to back-up cameras. These advanced driver-assistance systems, or ADAS, are in place to make driving easier and safer. However, increasing evidence shows that older seniors, who are also an age group at higher risk for motor vehicle crashes, do not use many of these driver-assistance technologies. Read more at today.tamu.edu.

CDL Licenses Testing to Be Offered Outside DMV (Virginia)
A new federal waiver is making it easier to get licenses into the hands of future truck drivers. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is allowing people to take their commercial driver's license test outside the DMV. This change will allow company's like CDS Tractor Trailer Training in Roanoke to test people on site and help get drivers behind the wheel and transporting essential goods a little faster. Read more at wdbj7.com.

Beaumont Health Security Breach Puts Personal Information of 112,000 at Risk (Michigan)
The personal information of 112,000 people who were treated at Beaumont Health was potentially compromised in a phishing email data breach that dates back nearly a year, the state's largest hospital system announced Friday. Among the details that may have been leaked to "an unauthorized third party" include names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, medical conditions, and in some cases, bank account information and driver's license numbers. Read more at bridgemi.com.

Hey Teens! You Could Win a $100 Gift Card for Making a Traffic Safety Meme (Ohio)
Are you a master of memes and between the ages of 14 to 18 years old? If so, you could win a $100 gift card by creating a meme for the teen traffic safety meme contest being held by State Farm and the Cuyahoga County Safe Communities Coalition. The meme can be on a traffic safety topic of your choice, but the meme should convey a "life-saving message," according to officials. Read more at news5cleveland.com.

Arizona MVD Online Services Restored After Computer Upgrade
The effort to modernize the computer system at Arizona’s Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) has been completed. The Arizona Department of Transportation says after a three-day shutdown the MVD system can now provide better services for customers with a range of new online features. However, services at Authorized Third Party offices remain unavailable for the time being while the computer system transition is finalized and tested. Read more at knau.org.

Watch Zoox’s Autonomous Car Drive Around San Francisco for an Hour (California)
Zoox...published a video showcasing its autonomous system driving for an hour in downtown San Francisco and performing a range of complex maneuvers in heavy, multi-lane vehicle traffic and dense pedestrian crowds. While it’s difficult to glean much without data from additional real-world tests, the clip highlights a trend among self-driving startups: Showing rather than telling. Read more at venturebeat.com.
Recreational Vehicle Registrations Temporarily Halted for Conversion to a New, Improved System (Idaho)
Recreational vehicle registrations will be paused in April as the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation implements a new, online system to provide faster transactions and better service. From April 10th to April 20th, customers will have limited ability to register their recreational vehicles or obtain invasive species permits. Read more at hjnews.com.

OTHER NEWS

Some Advanced Safety Systems Prevent Crashes Better Than Others, IIHS Study Shows
Technology designed to automatically help vehicles stay in their lanes does not provide the same safety benefit as other advanced safety systems, a new report shows. The finding comes from an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety analysis of real-world insurance claims data, and the report echoes Consumer Reports’ earlier survey results. Read more at consumerreports.org.

Requiring Lap/Shoulder Seatbelts Remains Among NTSB School Bus Safety Wishes
NTSB said 46 of its 268 recommendations that address its 10 Most Wanted List of Safety Improvements for 2019-2020 could be implemented by the end of this year. Five of these recommendations are specific to school buses, but NTSB said it has not received a response to them from states or stakeholders. Read more at stonline.com.

New From NTSB: Safety Tip Card for Truck Drivers
A new safety tip card created by the National Transportation Safety Board for commercial motor vehicle drivers and owners is intended to reinforce common lessons learned from agency crash investigations, as well as issues outlined in NTSB’s list of 10 “Most Wanted” safety improvements for 2019-2020. Read more at safetyandhealthmagazine.com.

Oil Price Turns Negative in Historic First; Diesel’s Decline Continues
The price of oil dropped to its lowest level in history April 20, sinking into negative pricing as oil supplies are beginning to overwhelm the globe’s storage capacity. During trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, West Texas Intermediate crude for May delivery fell more than 100% to settle at negative $37.63 per barrel, meaning oil producers would pay traders to take the oil off their hands. Meanwhile, diesel fuel prices continued their steady slide, according to the Energy Information Administration. Read more at ttnews.com.

‘Ghostdrivers’ Test Cultural Reactions to Autonomous Cars
In Mexico City, some pedestrians reacted playfully to apparently autonomous vehicles, walking in front of them or nudging friends toward them. In rural Colima, Mexico, around 450 miles away, pedestrians were more likely to wait for the cars to pass before crossing the street. And in the Netherlands, some pedestrians were surprised to encounter driverless cars, believing the decision to introduce them should have been discussed at town hall meetings ahead of time. Read more at news.cornell.edu.

TWITTER NEWS
@AAMVAConnection has been watching the twitter feed and decided to highlight some of the tweets here. Links are provided within most of the tweets, and we have also provided a link to each tweet as well. Note that you do not have to have an account or sign in to Twitter to view the message posts, images associated with the post, and the reach of the message (retweets, favorited, etc.).

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community. You may be surprised at what you're missing! Follow @AAMVAConnection.

Check out recent @AAMVAConnection Twitter action.

***Thank you for the @AAMVAConnection mentions!***

Donate Life New England @DLNewEngland | View the Tweet

Happy Earth Day! Did you know that the blue and green in the Donate Life logo represent the blue sky and green earth and the swirl is for the circle of life? Register your decision to be an organ and tissue donor today at http://RegisterMe.org. #DonateLife #EarthDay2020

Ontario Ministry of Transportation @ONtransport | View the Tweet

Ontario is supporting our vital trucking sector with the launch of a new online service to make it simpler and faster for carriers to renew their Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registration certificate.

https://cvorrenewal.mto.gov.on.ca/##/
VermontDMV @VTDMV | View the Tweet

#DidYouKnow the left lane on the interstate is meant for passing? If you’re not passing, DON’T hang out in the left lane. It actually makes roads MORE dangerous, even if driving a safe speed. Here’s a good video that explains why:

KY State Police @kystatepolice | View the Tweet

KSP Post 9 Pikeville partnering with local first responders to honor healthcare workers on the frontline of the #COVID19 pandemic

SCDMV @SC_DMV | View the Tweet

It's #FlashbackFriday! The #SCDMV celebrated @DonateLifeSC in 2019 at our annual Blue and Green Day. Show your support by becoming an organ donor at http://RegisterMe.org or your local #SCDMV office! #DonateLifeMonth
Tennessee Highway Safety Office @TNHSO | View the Tweet

These terrifying dashcam videos show how quickly you can lose control of your vehicle once you take your eyes off the road. Always drive alert! #DistractedDriving

MoDOT @MoDOT | View the Tweet

Lives are at stake in work zones, including your own. Be more than a memory: Buckle up. Phone down. Don't speed. #BUPD
Ohio State Patrol Retweeted

Governor Mike DeWine @GovernorMikeDeWine | View the Tweet

The Buckeye Guide to #SocialDistancing! 6 feet is key.
http://coronavirus.ohio.gov #InThisTogetherOhio

Buckeye Guide to Social Distancing
6 FEET APART EQUALS...

- 6.5 FOOTBALLS
- 9 CARDINALS
- 12 HOT DOGS
- 10 EARS OF CORN