AAMVA's 2021 Annual International Conference (AIC) Will Be Held Virtually

Due to the ongoing threat from COVID-19 and for the safety of our members, our attendees, and our staff, we have decided to hold the 2021 Annual International Conference as a virtual event. All of the planning and preparation that our speakers have invested will still be available as virtual sessions. Association business events, education sessions, and the awards ceremony will be held leveraging Crowd Compass (our mobile app platform) and Zoom.

How do I register?
If you already registered for the in-person conference in Denver and wish to attend the virtual conference, you do not need to do anything, you're already registered!

If you have not already registered, you can still sign up to attend the event, just click here to register.

How much does it cost?
This is a free event.

What is the new schedule?
Click here for the full agenda.

Do I need to register for sessions individually?
No, once registered for the event, you are able to attend all of the sessions.

Where do I go to attend the conference?
A link to access the event website and a virtual conference guide will be sent on Monday to all registered attendees.

Where can I get more information?
Click here or email events@aamva.org for more information about this event.

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

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

**COVID-19 | NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE**

- Pandemic Has TSA Developing Tech That Detects Threats While Reducing Physical Contact

**COVID-19 | REGION 2 NEWS COVERAGE**

- COVID Surge Forces South Carolina DMV To Make Changes Across the State

**COVID-19 | REGION 3 NEWS COVERAGE**

- More Secretary of State Facilities Will Soon Require Appointments for Driver's License Services (Illinois)
- Drivers and Pedestrians Have To Get Used To Sharing the Road Again After the Pandemic (Ohio)
- Looking To Buy a Car? Here's What You Need To Know About Vehicles Shortages and How They're Impacting Northeast Wisconsin Dealers, Buyers

**COVID-19 | REGION 4 NEWS COVERAGE**

- Will the Pandemic Make Los Angeles More Pedestrian Friendly? (California)
- Hawaii's Governor Asks Tourists To Stay Away Because of COVID

Visit [cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for more information on COVID-19, guidance, press releases, press kits, and more.

**REGION 1 NEWS**

Connecticut Regulators Plan Major Growth in Battery Storage, EV Charging

Connecticut regulators have finalized new rules paving the way for a major expansion of battery storage and electric vehicle charging, part of a broader effort to modernize the state’s electric grid...The ultimate goal of the proceeding is to make the electric grid more efficient, resilient, equitable, and supportive of clean energy. Read more at [energynews.us](http://www.energynews.us).

Good News for NJ Drivers: Gas Tax to Decrease on Oct. 1 (New Jersey)

Drivers in New Jersey will see some relief at the pump after a summer of high gasoline prices. New Jersey's gas tax is scheduled to decrease by 8.3 cents a gallon beginning Oct. 1, the Treasury Department said Tuesday. The price drop comes close, but not close enough, to wiping out the 9.3-cent increase of a year ago. Read more at [northjersey.com](http://www.northjersey.com).

PennDOT Aims To Deploy Work Zone Reservation System (Pennsylvania)

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is moving closer to adopting a new "reservation system" to help minimize traffic congestion while highway crews make road and bridge repairs...Doug Tomlinson, PennDOT’s highway safety and traffic operations chief, explained in a blog post that his agency’s “Lane Reservation System” would function much like the “OpenTable” online reservation system for restaurants. Read more at [aashtojournal.org](http://www.aashtojournal.org).
Jury Issues $1 Billion Verdict Against Two Carriers in Fatal Crash (Florida)
A Nassau County, Fla., jury on Aug. 20 issued a total of $1 billion in monetary damages against two motor carriers that were declared negligent for their role in a pair of 2017 crashes on the same night and near the same location. The crashes, which occurred less than 90 minutes apart, took place on Interstate 95 approaching the intersection of SR 200, near Jacksonville, according to court documents. Read more at ttnews.com.

Georgia Officers To Learn To Draw Blood for DUI Cases
A new grant will be used to train Georgia law enforcement officers to draw blood from drivers suspected of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, state officials said. The Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety says it has received an impaired driving grant of about $44,000 that it plans to use to establish a phlebotomy program. Read more at wgxatv.com.

Those With DV Lic. Plates Need Handicapped Placards Beginning Jan. 1 (Texas)
The day is approaching for a new law to take effect that will require those with disabled veteran (“DV”) specialty license plates to display a handicap placard or a handicap designation on the license plate to park in a handicap parking spot. Read more at kdhnews.com.

TxDOT Launches ‘Faces of Drunk Driving’ Campaign To Personalize Stories Behind 900+ DWI Fatalities Each Year (Texas)
At least 900 people have died every year on Texas roads for the last 10 years in DUI-alcohol-related car crashes, according to data from the Texas Department of Transportation...To combat the number of fatalities related to alcohol, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is launching a statewide campaign called the “Faces of Drunk Driving.” Read more at ksat.com.

South Dakota DMV Kiosks Expand Functions and Locations
Have you used the South Dakota DMV Now Kiosks? ...Up until now, South Dakotans could only renew tabs at a kiosk, but Dakota News Now reports that the state has made it possible to complete five different transactions at a DMV Now Kiosk. Read more at kkn.com.

Electric Scooter Safety Put Under Spotlight After Green Bay Man’s Death (Wisconsin)
A Green Bay man died over the weekend after reportedly falling off an electric scooter in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, and recently a person was seriously injured in Green Bay while riding one. Despite that, the city of Green Bay says its data shows these scooters have a good safety record. Read more at wbay.com.
Golf Carts, ATVs, and UTVs Are Becoming a Popular Mode of Travel for Smaller Communities (Wisconsin)
Early next week, a group of Suamico citizens plan to mail postcards asking village residents to vote on whether to allow ATVs and UTVs on most of their streets. It's a move many communities have embraced in northeast Wisconsin in recent years, including the village of Reedsville. Read more at nbc26.com.

REGION 4 NEWS

Cruise Looks to Solar Panels to Power Self-Driving Cars (California)
Cruise, the San Francisco autonomous car company backed by General Motors, is launching a new initiative to support renewable energy efforts in California's Central Valley. Through a program called Farm to Fleet, Cruise will source solar power for its all-electric fleet from two farms: Sundale Vineyards outside Tulare and Moonlight Companies in Reedley. Read more at ttnews.com.

Waymo Launches Public Trial of Its Driverless Ride-Hailing Service in San Francisco (California)
Waymo, Google's autonomous vehicle spin-off, has started offering selected members of the public access to its self-driving taxi service in San Francisco for the first time. Residents who have chosen to participate in Waymo's 'Trusted Tester' scheme will be able to hail a driverless vehicle in the city's more residential western and southern districts. Read more at eandt.theiet.org.

Lawmakers Pump Brakes on DMV Plan To Pay Back $1 Technology Fees That Were Ruled Unconstitutional (Nevada)
The Nevada DMV's plan to pay back millions of collected $1 fees — charges declared unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court — is temporarily on ice after state lawmakers said they want additional buy-in on the plan...Sen. Chris Brooks (D-Las Vegas) lauded the proposal as a "creative solution" but said the committee wanted explicit approval from the court and state Senate Republicans (who filed the initial legal challenge over the fees). Read more at thenevadaindependent.com.

More Than 7,000 Aggressive Driving or Speeding Offences Reported in July (Saskatchewan)
A video captured last month of a driver speeding through a highway construction zone showed the dangers of reckless driving and speeding. SGI's July safety statistics, however, show that this example, though extreme, isn't unusual. Read more at ckom.com.

OTHER NEWS

State Licensing Agency Older Driver Safety Guide
State licensing agencies are at the forefront of setting safety measures for all road users, having the ability to influence change on drivers. This influence can come not just by legislation, but also by acting as a resource for those who have questions or do not pass a required driving test. Read more at roadsafeseniors.org.
FMCSA Medical Board Supports Vision Policy Changes
The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration [FMCSA] has released a report from its medical review board on plans to tighten federal driver vision standards, but at the same time streamline the process to get qualified monocular drivers on the road quicker. Read more at ttnews.com.

Pottle’s Transportation Driver Ronald Round Wins ATA’s Battle of the States
Ronald Round has been named Bendix Grand Champion at American Trucking Associations’ National Battle of the States: Virtual Truck Driving Championships...The Battle of the States began July 31 with state-level trivia contests. Questions were based on Facts for Drivers, federal and state laws, and state trucking history and culture. Read more at ttnews.com.

As Highway Deaths Rise and Seat Belt Use Drops, GM Rolls Out Buckle-up Feature
The new ‘Buckle to Drive’ system lets a car start, but won’t shift into gear for at least 20 seconds, a delay that could encourage more drivers to belt up. With highways deaths at a 15-year high, experts have pointed to a decline in seat belt usage — prompting safety advocates and auto manufacturers to look for ways to get people to buckle up again. Read more at nbcnews.com.

Fuel-Efficient Tech Available for Trucks Via Proposed Legislation
Legislation that would establish a program at the U.S. Department of Energy to assist the trucking industry with the adoption of fuel-efficient technologies recently was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Rodney Davis (R-III.), his caucus’ top surface transportation lawmaker in the U.S. House of Representatives, recently unveiled the Supporting Trucking Efficiency and Emission Reductions, or STEER, Act. Read more at ttnews.com.

Why the Feds Are Investigating Tesla’s Autopilot and What that Means for the Future of Self-Driving Cars
It’s hard to miss the flashing lights of fire engines, ambulances and police cars ahead of you as you’re driving down the road. But in at least 11 cases in the past three and a half years, Tesla’s Autopilot advanced driver-assistance system did just that. This led to 11 accidents in which Teslas crashed into emergency vehicles or other vehicles at those scenes, resulting in 17 injuries and one death. Read more at nextgov.com.

‘Be Honest’: NTSB Chief Says Robot-Car Claims Erode Public Trust
The nation’s new chief accident investigator wants to send a message: growing public confusion over automated driving systems in the U.S. is threatening to undermine the potential safety benefits of the technology...At a recent conference she attended of state highway safety officials, most said they thought some models could operate themselves. Read more at bloomberg.com.

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community on social media. You may be surprised at what you’re missing! Here are a few highlights of last weeks’ activity.

TWITTER NEWS
WRAP.org @WRAP.org - 1h
NEWS: Virginia Launches 20th Annual Checkpoint Strikeforce DUI Enforcement and Public Education Campaign @GovernorVA @VirginiaDMV
#ActLikeItVA governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-r...

Nevada DMV @NevadaDMV - Aug 26
DMV offices in Las Vegas will be hosting after-hours COVID vaccination clinics. The offices are centrally located in their neighborhoods and have plenty of parking and space. See dmvnv.com and the press release from NV Health Response: nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/upl...

Colorado State Patrol @CSP_News - 18h
Give some love and tell us your favorite looking vehicle in the fleet! They may get utilized for different reasons, but they still have the same purpose: keep Colorado safe!
MD State Police 🏎️ @MDSP · 1m
Don’t wait for the ice to melt — #BeTheMakeAPlanDriver & arrange a safe ride home before the first sip. @MDSP @zerodeathsMD