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School Transportation Update

April 20, 2020

1. Schools to remain closed
2. School bus driver recertification
3. CDL license renewal
4. CDL testing stations
5. School bus inspections
6. Transportation drop-in conference (Zoom)

1) Schools to remain closed

Governor DeWine announced as part of his regular address today that schools will not reopen for this school year.

2) School bus driver recertification

ODE announced that in accordance with HB 197, any school bus driver whose preservice certificate expired after March 9 will have 90 days to renew their certificate. They have made no announcements regarding T8 physicals or T2 reports (due by August 31).

3) CDL License renewal

The FMCSA has announced that drivers whose CDL expired on or after March 1 will have 90 days to renew their license. Ohio BMV has closed all their offices in the state except for five locations, which remain open only to serve commercial license holders. Click [here](#) to see the list.

4) CDL testing stations

All state (BMV) CDL testing stations are closed during the pandemic, with no announced reopening date. There are a number of private CDL testing stations that are open. Click [here](#) to see the list. Contact them directly if you have drivers to be tested.

5) School bus inspections

In response to a number of questions received from district staff, we contacted the Ohio State Highway Patrol's office of Licensing and Commercial Standards regarding bus inspections. Here is what we have learned:

- a. School districts that have key personnel working, and who would like to have their buses inspected may contact their OSP post and request an inspection. The patrol will work with these districts as staff are available to schedule inspections.
- b. In some cases, OSP has assigned additional personnel to assist with school bus inspections. In cases where an individual has been assigned that is not familiar with the inspection process, they are teamed up with an experienced and trained school bus inspector.
- c. There is no 'push' to get all annual inspections completed prior to school starting. Under the authority of HB 197, the patrol is observing a 90-day grace period for annual school bus inspections that are typically due before school starts.

6) Transportation drop-in conference (Zoom)

OSBA's transportation office has several drop-in Zoom meetings for transportation administrators. These first meetings were for MTA enrollees and graduates. In response to numerous requests, our next Zoom drop-in will be open to all public school transportation administrators in Ohio.

Our next drop-in conference will be held on **Wednesday, April 29 at 10:00 AM**.

To accommodate a larger attendance, all participants will be muted upon entry to the meeting room, and questions will be managed through the chat window. When needed, the hosts will be able to individually activate individual member microphones.

If you are interested in participating, please send an email to MTA@ohioschoolboards.org and request login information.

Ohio School Boards Association
8050 N High St, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43235

<http://www.ohioschoolboards.org>

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